Item 1:

Apologies:

Heather Thomas, Sally Harris

In attendance:

Christopher Flanagan, Pete McCormack, Stuart Page, Alistair Lord, Dave Phillips

Item 2:

Minutes of last meeting.

AL proposes, DP seconds.

Actions arising relate to ensuring members are enfranchised in decision making.

Also discussion post-meeting among Committee members concerning improving comms with members.

Item 3.

* Preferred Development partner will provide a more detailed proposed by tomorrow (Friday 27 Oct), including firmer details on financial proposal.
* The Society Committee will then need to decide whether we are to approve the proposal, and how to consult members on the point.
* 3G pitch:  Planning permission has been granted, but with a cork surface rather than rubber crumb.  Club has asked consultants to provide advice on whether this change affects viability.  If it does, consideration will be given to appealing decision.
* A levelling up funding submission has been submitted but rejected on the basis that there was not a strong enough management statement.  We have been invited to resubmit.
* AL asks whether there has been discussion on how any surplus funds would be allocated after repayment of creditors. AL says that we should ensure that Society has input into that decision.
* PM adds that there is a further question on project timelines, as (some) creditors may want repaying in next few years.
* There is likely to be a Community Infrastructure Levy of £100k that we might be able to access for purposes of 3G.
* SP mentions prospect of bond issuance to raise funds.  It is agreed that any bond would be unlikely to be commercially attractive, but possible that people would nevertheless invest.
* PM thinks if things go well, difference between cost and fund raising might be circa £100k.
* PM says that Club may need some financial assistance from the Society.  This was agreed on a short term basis until end Nov. This lending will be interest free.
* Run of home games coming up so some cash should flow in.  We are however still projecting a loss for the end of the season.
* Two potential new Society board members:
  + Caroline White.  Works in Bristol, has marketing experience.  Fan of the club. She would be co-opted to the board.
  + Gareth Cooper. Lives in Oldfield Park.  Works for Yeo Valley in a commercial role.  Nick & Peter Headington interviewed him
* HR issues discussed. CF raises point that it had previously been discussed that the Club might consider bringing in HR expertise, potentially as a Society-appointed director.  PM will raise to Club Board for consideration.
* Short discussion on Alex Fletcher’s future, which is currently unresolved.

Item 4

* Future of Club/Society. Nothing further to add to discussion above and at last Committee meeting.

Item 5

* Finance.  AL refers to dip in funds based on money lent to Club.£6k agreed by Committee and £2k for Hoar
* ding(enabling Club to facilitate AF contract.
* 100 club is currently lacking an accountable person in respect of 100 Club. It is agreed that it is a good source of income for the Society.  DP says this is a good opportunity for a relaunch.  Currently has about 60 members.  PM suggests a campaign to get to 100 members.  AL will take this as an action point.  PM suggests picking up with Mark Taylor, who had previously done work on this.

Item 6

* AOB.
* PM says first issue to address is better communication.  Need:
  + Regular comms to be produced.  James Carlin has suggested a short monthly video update. Also suggestion of a WhatsApp channel.  DP thinks we should push ahead with this.  PM will pull together an update for members, to include a call to action for volunteers for the Society and for the club.
  + Minutes to be tidied up and uploaded to site.
  + PM will ask Caroline (new board member) if she can support DP at all with comms work.
* PM raises failure of streaming for Taunton match.  This is run centrally by National League. DP reports that equipment arrived late and not operational.
* PM says Club have asked if Society would help Club with application for some Premier League funding for toilet renovation.

AOB:

* CF declares a conflict of interest in relation to item raised.  CF has been asked by a colleague at Ticketek if it is ok to put them in touch with a contact at the club in relation to club’s ticketing operations. CF says he would have no involvement whatsoever beyond introducing parties but wanted to check with Committee that was ok.  No objections raised.  CF to reach out to Paul Williams and Andrew Pierce to see if they are interested in an introduction.
* CF informs Committee that there is a Community Owned Club Network meeting on 16 Nov 2023.  CF happy to provide details to anyone who can attend.