

**Our mi MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PART OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25 February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.**

Present: Nigel Kingston (NK) (Chair)

Peter Lerner (PL) Trustee of WWSET and Community Liaison

Trevor Stroud (TS) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board

Martyn Broughton (MB) Trust Treasurer, FALL Director

Tony Hector (TH) Trust nominated member of the Football Club Board, Legal Secretary

Alan Cecil (AC) FALL Director, Website, Twitter and Facebook supporter interaction

David Roberton (DR) Trustee of WWSET and running of WWFC Ladies Team

Bob Massie (BM) Vice Chair, Communications, Fundraising and Commercial

Lisa Bowker (LB) Assists with Volunteers

John Jewell (JJ) Fundraising

Chris Harvey (CH) New member appointed at AGM.

Russell Jones (RJ) Membership Secretary

Plus **36** Trust Members who joined the Zoom meeting as spectators.

NK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**WWSET Paul Foley; NK** welcomed Paul to the meeting and asked PF to give quick overview. The discussion that took place can be found as Appendix A to this meeting which has been uploaded to the Website.

DR said that over the last year had managed funding from Friends of WWSET and other sources extremely well, so anybody considering financial support for WWSET can be assured that it will go to helping the work in the community etc and gives grateful thanks to PF for all his hard work.

NK thanked PF and WWSET. The Trust Board are impressed by what they are doing and good luck going forward.

**WWFC Ladies & Under 18 Teams** Circulated **to Board and on Trust Website.**

**Items outstanding from last Meeting.**

One item that was outstanding that will not be discussed during the meeting:

Club update talked about busines interruption insurance and insurers have paid out a further sum from the policy and so around 40 – 45% of the claim has been paid and club are still working with the insurers to get the rest of the funds paid.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously agreed and NK signed them on behalf of the Trust Board.

**Agenda**:

**Trust Membership Renewals Update** **Final Position**: 99.9% membership renewals have been sorted out. NK advised that now that there are now 1174 fully paid-up members, 509 are ordinary, 665 are Legacy and within those numbers are 91 Life members, who do not pay subs but paid a lump sum a few years ago. Around 1470 members were previously members but records were not accurate – membership base has reduced by 300, but quite a lot of those that left only joined the Trust for the Legacy vote. Trust aiming to increase members and Russell Jones will be taking on the Membership role going forward, with this as a key objective. AC reported that a few more have promised to renew, but yet to deliver. Income from subscriptions (last year £11k) is currently £29441 which includes £619 this month. Target remains £29961 and hopefully with a few more payments will meet this. Scheme changes and cost increases necessitated a lot of work, but hopefully easier next year.

**Fundraising Report: Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.** JJ said that this month the Valentine’s Day Raffle raised just over £1900 and sold 1093 tickets. Everyone who won a prize received it and monies paid into bank account. Keen to do something on a regular basis on fundraising March 9th – 13th running another Auction which involves a signed shirt and other items. Full details sent out in due course. Thanks to all from NK to those who took part in the Raffle, to generate these funds.

NK asked LB to talk about the Big Step which Trust Directors have got involved with. Big Step takes place on 6/7 March, is being run by Gambling for Lives and the aim is to walk a joint 1137 miles. This is the distance between every football club. The Big Step aims to highlight the link between football and Gambling and the effect that it can have on lives. Go on Trust website and sign up to help make these steps. Sign up by tomorrow (26 February) and will be on Facebook and Twitter. Raise awareness. You only need to do from 1 mile upwards to help reach this total so please sign up.

AC asked about how to record miles. You will need to download the app but there are instructions sent when you sign up. More information to come by next weekend on how to record once signed up.

Sky Bet sponsors the EFL League. Not a lot that the Club/s can do about it but the Football Supporters Association are making representations to the Premier League, EFL and FA to try and to have it changed. Unfortunately, financial difficulties in today’s pandemic are going to make it tougher to remove it and replace it with another sponsor.

**Trust Disciplinary Policy Adoption**: Discussed last meeting as need to adopt a Disciplinary Policy to apply to all members of the Trust. The policy was issued and asked for Trust Members to vote as to whether they agree with the policy or not. Had 65 votes cast with 63 in favour and 2 against.  Minimum of 20 votes required, of which 51% need to be in favour in order to pass a resolution. Therefore, it will be formally adopted today. Once adopted the policy will be available on the Trust Website. NK thanked those who voted.

**Trust Finance Summary.** **Circulated to Board and on Trust Website.**  MB: Total income in January was £3k and total cost £1700 and surplus went into bank account of £1300. Funds in bank now £114,545 of which £114k on deposit with HSBC. Funds from subscriptions came in during January. Some people are paying on a monthly basis and hope to be close to £30k target for subscriptions. No longer working with World Pay and final credits came through as overcharged previously. Meeting costs are Zoom meeting and other small sundry costs. Movement going forward will mainly be fundraising and need to raise funds to protect our 25% share of WWFC. RC has said he will do everything he can to not have to raise funds through a share issue, but we need to plan to be in a good position to maintain our assets.

**Club Update**: TS and TH. Any specific questions please add to Q&A and will answer. On field everything is concentrated on remaining in the Championship. Question was raised about Annis Mehmeti and whether we have secured his contract for next season. TS to check.

Season tickets for next season and proposals for this season. A proposal on this is expected to be published tomorrow (26th Feb) and key to this will be that if any STH wants a refund for this year, they will be able to get this. If people decide to leave their ST funds in the Club, there will be some benefits. Trust have been consulted on these discussions.

Disabled Supporters Association will be set up and it’s been agreed by RC and the Trust will be managing this. Part of the community plan that has been put together. PL will pull together consultations and suggestions how to improve the Club going forward.

Wi-Fi system should be working in North Stand and Control room tomorrow. Rest of the stadium will follow. By start of the next season it will be available. Wi-Fi is run on direct current and will be the largest system for Wi-Fi in Europe.

Premier League plan has been submitted by end of January. Not asked for any more detail on how we can manage it.

Community Plan – is being worked on by PL with LB and NK. Coming out soon. Club are fully on board with this.

The Club have signed up to the Football League Diversity Code with the FA. By voluntarily signing up to the code, the club agrees with the following principles:

* the club will champion diversity across both ethnicity and gender.
* the coaching staff should reflect the professional playing base diversity.
* the senior leadership and team operations diversity should match the local population's diversity.
* the club's recruitment will be based on merit whilst ensuring a diverse pool of candidates is considered.
* the club will have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan with targets, reporting on progress annually.

The FA has produced a suite of resources to help clubs with achieving these aims. The core is guidance on adopting a diversity aware approach to future recruitment that seeks to promote awareness and inclusion whilst avoiding tokenism and positive discrimination.

Progress with implementing the plan will be reported on by the club annually.

So far, all but one of the Championship clubs have signed up to the code, but the FA team are yet to meet with the club to discuss their possible inclusion.

Financial side – positive news on insurance. Leaves us in a good position. Can meet some of the huge capital commitments that Club has and going forward without being overstretched. Looking at plans for next season and, whilst RC is convinced and GA and team are positive that we remain in the Championship, the Club will work on plans for both Championship and League 1.

**Trust Achievement Plaque:** Put together to celebrate achievements of Trust while they had 8 years of ownership of the Football Club. CH showed a mock-up of the plaque – been in touch with specialist glass manufacturer to reproduce this. Price £188 to produce it and £40 to reproduce the Trust logo and can reuse this logo on any other stationery or other things we may want to produce. Chris Hendron said he would produce the logo artwork for us at no cost. Many thanks to Chris. Timescale from giving go ahead to completion will be 2 weeks. Artwork for logo will be included in this time frame. NK will need to talk to WWFC to ask where we can put it, as although we own the Stadium, the Football Club are tenants. Need to be consistent with naming of the Trust throughout the document before it is finalised and needs some tidying up as will be a permanent reminder of what we have achieved. CH will do this.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**:

LB advised that a small group of weekday volunteers have been invited back from Tuesday to do some work at the Club mainly in the Woodlands Lounge and painting.

AC asked regarding an article in the press yesterday concerning trial events with fans present. TS has not heard anything but will get Gordon Reilly to check with the Supervisory Committee to find out. TH said a couple of Premier League Clubs have been asking for trial games before scheduled ones as per the Government Roadmap. Some League 1 Clubs have also asked. Nothing official.

NK mentioned that £10 vouchers for members against £25 spending in Club have been sent to 325 members. These are still available.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TRUST MEMBERSHIP**

Luton made offer for Fred Onyedinma late in the January window – TS said that request was turned down as the offer was not large enough. When Trust owned Club we always needed money and would accept any offer of finance coming in, but now we are not so desperate. Fred was not interested in going either.

When will Bayo be fit - No date set for his return. With Uche in squad it gives him more time to get back to full fitness without rushing back early.

How can members purchase a WWSET jacket? – DR does not think they are for general sale and will ask PF and follow up and reply. AC thinks staff only have them. P Foley has now contacted the person who submitted this query.

Can anything be said about training ground situation particularly after RC saying something will be happening soon? It is expected that the Club’s intentions will be advised in next week or so.

Wi-Fi available in stadium – will it be free or will fans have to pay to use it. There will be no charge to use it and it should make purchasing of food and drinks more efficient. Long term aim of RC is drink and food to be delivered to your seats.

Meeting finished at 8.18 pm.

Tina Davis

Trust Minutes Taker.