

## **Blues Trust Meeting Minutes**

9 August 2014

Venue: Margaret Decker's home

Recorded by Margaret Decker

Meeting started at 11.10 am

Board members present: Steve McCarthy (SMc), Peter Bull (PBU), Margaret Decker (MD).  
Emma Hodgson (EH) voted by phone on proposals that had been circulated before meeting.

In attendance: Adrian Giles (AG), Chris Walker (CW)

Apologies: Phil Brown (PB), David Farrell (DF), Lee Bradshaw (LB)

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 12 July 2014 were accepted as a true record.

### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Reports**

- a. Chairman's report** SMc reported that our treasurer was having difficulty in attending board meetings due to work and other commitments and may not stand for re-election in November. SMc and DF had a good meeting with Michael Wiseman, who had agreed to join Blues Trust. SMc also reported on correspondence with Peter Pannu.
- b. Treasurer's report** was accepted.
- c. PR & Media report** had not been circulated due to computer problems but would be circulated later. It was noted that this was the first time that the PR & Media report had not been presented on time.
- d. Marketing report:** there was no report as the marketing position is vacant.

### **4. Strategy Day Presentation**

AG reported on the strategy day. It was agreed that we needed to answer questions other people had asked about the trust and should explain how the £5 membership fee was spent. AG reviewed the core purpose, values and vision that had been agreed by the board. The visitors had very similar opinions on these but the visitors set a more ambitious membership target than the board, wanting to aim for 4,000 members. There was discussion on how to implement the agreed strategy. CW agreed to write a report, with help from AG, explaining the purpose, values and vision of Blues Trust. This will be published on the website and in print. The board expressed thanked AG for all the work he had done on the strategy day and report of outcomes.

### **5. Website**

PBU has continued work on CiviCRM. After updating to the recent release of WordPress and updating some plugins, CiviCRM is now working but there is more work to be done. When he has it set up he will be able to import data directly from InTouch but the database needs to be up to date when this is done. PBU is considering putting some polls on the site and it was agreed that this would be good. Those present at the meeting acknowledged all the work that he has done on the site and thanked him.

### **6. Side policy review**

MD had circulated a proposal on the election policy, which was voted on under item 11.

### **7. AGM Planning**

MD had circulated a tentative AGM timetable, which was voted on under item 11.

## **8. Newsletter update**

Fortnightly members newsletters sent out by LB have been very well received. SMC encouraged board members to continue to suggest articles that could be included in these.

## **9. Non- League Day**

EH had compiled a list of non-league games being played in the Midlands on September 6<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that Blues Trust board members would attend the Redditch United game and would encourage all Blues fans to attend a non-league game on that day, either joining us at the Redditch game or going to another non-league game. EH will do the planning for this.

## **10. Transfer of membership duties**

SMC asked MD to discuss membership duties with LB and decide who should do what.

## **11. Proposals**

The following proposals were made by MD and seconded by SMC and agreed by board members present at the meeting and EH participating in the vote by phone:

- (1) that the 2011 template of the election policy recommended by SD be adopted with changes made to 1.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 8.1. (Proposed changes to Blues Trust election policy had been circulated before the meeting)
- (2) that the tentative AGM timetable be adopted.
- (3) that we aim to have 8 elected board members, which means there will be 5 vacancies to fill as LB, DF and MD still have one more year of their two-year term to serve.
- (4) that we pay the expenses of the independent chair of the Election Management Group (EMG.)

LB, DF and MD will decide on the composition of the EMG since they will not be standing for election at the AGM.

## **12. A.O.B.**

SMC said that the meeting to discuss proposal to open a fans' bar had been postponed but will take place soon. There are many things to be considered and details to be worked out but it would be great to have a bar run by fans.

Jon Darch had requested that our report on Safe Standing be timed to coincide with other publicity about it.

We should continue to make every effort to get people to join the trust.

SMC has arranged a meeting with Professor Derek Fraser, the Independent Football Ombudsman, who supports Birmingham City.

Radio 4 requested an interview about Karren Brady and arrangements are being made for that.

Meeting ended at 1.05 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair

Date \_\_\_\_\_