

Minutes of Blues Trust board meeting, held at 3 pm on Tuesday, August 7 2018

Board members present: Peter Bull (PB), Margaret Decker (MD), Cliff Horrocks and Richard Stanley (RS)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 2/7/2018 meeting were approved.

2. Reports

a. Chair's report

CH reported that he had had a good meeting with David Brown, the new BCFC Supporter Services Officer. He had invited David to attend the board meeting but he had been unable to come. CH will try to arrange for him to attend a meeting at a later date. CH had attended the AGM of Supporters Direct.

b. Treasurer's report

PB presented a draft of the annual accounts and also the accounts for the months of June and July. He had notified the accountant of changes that needed to be made to the draft annual accounts. It was agreed that the annual accounts would be signed at the next board meeting, on September 4th.

c. Website report

PB had helped David Evans, of Hereford United Supporters Trust, by explaining our use of CiviCRM and he will allow David access to our site so that he can see how it is set up.

The board discussed using an online action register and agreed to try using it but, for the time being, to also attach an action list to the minutes after each meeting.

The board discussed whether we should disallow comments on posts until we can get moderators to supervise them. It was agreed that PB would give access to authors so that they could moderate the comments on their own posts and that authors would have the choice of whether to allow comments on their posts.

It was also agreed that, before the next AGM, the board would agree on a list of responsibilities for each board member. A meeting to discuss this was arranged on Thursday August 23, from 10 am to 4 pm.

PB described his plan to allow website users to give feedback about the website.

d. Secretary's report

MD had voted on behalf of Blues Trust in the Supporters Direct board election, the result of which was published on the SD website. She also attended the SD AGM.

3. Engaging the club

It was noted that the trust had published a statement in reply to the club's statement on July 30, about the transfer embargo. They had also published an article by Alex Hurley, which explained the regulations. The club had not agreed to meet with the trust to discuss concerns about the situation. It was agreed that Blues Trust should continue asking questions. At the next supporters' forum, the trust will ask why the club, when asked about the Financial Fair Play regulations, had reassured fans that they were aware of these and were continuing business as usual when their ability to buy new players was being restricted. The trust will also ask about compliance with the EFL requirement that clubs meet with a representative group of supporters at least twice a season to discuss significant issues relating to the club and that the framework for each club's specific consultation strategy is to be documented within its customer charter.

4. Blueprint 2025

It was agreed that the survey should be activated as soon as possible and that Brian Dick will be asked to provide more publicity for it, when he returns from holiday.

5. Engaging members

It was agreed that we would have informal meet-ups before as many home games as possible before the AGM and publicise each one before the game. The aim would be to have a pattern established by the AGM. It was agreed that CH and MD would meet at 6 pm in the Old Crown before the Swansea game on Friday August 17 and that PB and RS will also meet there if they can. CH will mention this in the August newsletter.

6. SD/FSF merger

It was agreed that Blues Trust board write to the Interim board of SD/FSF stating that we are in favour of the new merged group being set up as a mutual organisation and that we would like to receive news of their progress in setting it up.

7. AGM arrangements

MD said that KA, RS and MD have one more year to serve on the board after the AGM; CH, PB and PhB will need to stand for re-election if they want to continue on board. There was a discussion on possible people to take part in a Question and Answer session at the AGM and possible dates.

8. Newsletter

CH will write the August newsletter. RS will write the September one and MD will write the October one. Newsletters will include links to posts published in the previous month.

9. Any other business

RS reported on the progress he had made on re-applying for St Andrew's to be an Asset of Community Value.

10. Date and time of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4th at 3 pm.

The meeting finished at 5.15 pm