

BLUES TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of the Blues Trust Board held at 12 noon on Saturday 9 November 2019 at Church of God of Prophecy, 146 Cattell Road, Birmingham.

In attendance: Cliff Horrocks, (Chair), Peter Bull, Neil Cottrell, Richard Docker, David Roots and Richard Stanley (Board Members); and Margaret Decker and Bob Picket (Observers).

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and particularly those recently elected members attending their first meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Karim Adab (Board Member)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 August 2019 were noted and approved.

4. Appointment of Officers and Co-option of Additional Members

The Chair introduced this item and following discussion, it was agreed that Cliff Horrocks (CH) be reappointed as Chair, Richard Docker (RD) be appointed as Secretary and Peter Bull (PB) be reappointed as Treasurer. It was further agreed to appoint Margaret Decker (MD) and Bob Picket (BP) as Co-opted Board Members. All appointments are to continue until the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Discussion then turned to the purpose and objectives of the Board and the roles to be undertaken by individual Board members in the pursuit of those objectives. CH drew attention to a previously agreed report to Board in September 2018 which established key operational principles. Following consideration, it was agreed to reaffirm those principles with an adjustment to the size of the Board. Specifically it was agreed:

- that the Board should comprise a maximum of 10 members
- that Board meetings will be held quarterly
- individual Board members to lead on their areas of agreed responsibility with delegated authority for decision making
- individual Board members to consult with Board colleagues as appropriate to ensure coordination of actions and fulfilment of overall Board objectives

- individual Board members to report on activity, actions and progress at all Board meetings
- many operational issues will likely be projects in themselves which will require the formation of task specific teams comprising Board members

In addition to the previously agreed posts of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, the key functions of the Board were agreed and individual Board members were appointed as follows with regard to their expertise and interests:

- Research and Development - Richard Stanley (RS)
- Press and Public Relations - Karim Adab (KA)
- Membership and Marketing - David Roots (DR)
- Projects Management - Neil Cottrell (NC)
- Electronic Media - Bob Picket
- Without Portfolio - Margaret Decker
- External Partnerships - still to be allocated

Board members were encouraged to consider identifying their own job title for the portfolios to which they were appointed, and to share their preferences with colleagues in due course.

Following discussion and consideration of likely tasks within individual portfolios, CH agreed to update a spreadsheet previously agreed by the Board (in September 2018) and then to circulate for comment and agreement.

Finally, to assist communication across the Board it was agreed to establish a WhatsApp group for Board members. RD to arrange.

5. Chairs Report

CH updated the Board on liaison with the football club following his attendance at a recent meeting of the Supporters Forum organised at short notice by Birmingham City FC and held on Thursday 7 November 2019. He explained that the meeting was quite tightly controlled as far as permitted questions were concerned and, consequently, was disappointing in terms of confronting the strategic issues facing the club, not least around its financial position. However, Edward Zheng, the club director in attendance, did agree to a separate meeting with CH to help forge a more positive relationship between the Trust and the club and discuss the vision for the future of the club. The meeting has not yet been arranged. CH agreed to keep Board members informed of progress with arrangements for the meeting and to report back once it had taken place. RS agreed to accompany CH to the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting....if it goes ahead....could indeed

provide a welcome opportunity for the Trust to build an improved relationship with BCFC. It was further agreed that this matter be discussed in full at the next meeting of the Board and that at that time the Board consider and agree its approach to the development of a relationship with BCFC.

6. Treasurers Report

PB introduced this item and drew attention to the previously circulated Treasurers Report. He confirmed that current reserves stood at £1296.00 but explained that a number of invoices, including costs associated with the recent AGM, were still to be processed. The report was noted.

7. Research Group (BCFC Finances) Report

RS introduced this item and drew attention to the previously circulated report. He also tabled a Balance Sheet and Profit And Loss Account for Birmingham City FC PLC as identified from the research undertaken by the Group which comprised himself and two other Trust members, Alex Hurley and Graham Powell.

The report was discussed in some detail and the figures revealed by it caused consternation. RS confirmed that some details still had to be verified but even taking this into account the current state of finances was very challenging.

It was agreed that the information should not be shared more widely at the moment but, instead, held in abeyance pending the anticipated meeting with Edward Zheng previously identified by CH. It was agreed that the information provided by the report gave the Trust real insight and would be extremely useful going forward. RS, Alex and Graham were thanked for their work.

8. Future Board Meetings

RD introduced this item and proposed that the dates of future meetings should be as follows:

- Saturday 1 February 2020 (before match vs Nottingham Forest)
- Saturday 18 April 2020 (before match vs Charlton Athletic)
- dates for the remainder of 2020 will be arranged once the 2020/2021 fixtures list is announced in June.

The dates were agreed.

Discussion then turned to the choice of venue for future meetings. It was agreed that the arrangements for this meeting had worked very well but it was noted that the charge for the room hire was £100.00 (discounted from £160.00). This is clearly an issue going forward but it was agreed that a standard had now been set regarding accessibility, privacy and comfort for meetings which was to be maintained from this point onwards. CH reminded

everyone of the expected availability of the Connect Church, on the Coventry Road, from the New Year and that this might provide a cheaper alternative. RD to research prior to making arrangements for future meetings.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- Saturday 1 February 2020