

BLUES TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of the Blues Trust Board held at 11.00 on Saturday 8 August 2020 via Skype video conference call.

In attendance: Cliff Horrocks (CH) (Chair), Peter Bull (PB), Neil Cottrell (NC), Margaret Decker (MD), Richard Docker (RD), Bob Pickett (BP) and Richard Stanley (RS) (Board Members).

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Karim Adab (KA) (Board Member)
- David Roots (DR) (Board Member)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 June 2020 were noted and approved.

4. Chairs Report

CH explained that he had been contacted by DR who had informed him that, due to a combination of domestic and employment reasons impacting upon his ability to dedicate time to the work of the Trust, he wished to tender his resignation from the Board. CH advised the Board that he had asked DR to not submit his resignation at this time, but to review the situation in a few months time when circumstances may have improved. In the meantime, Board colleagues would cover DR's portfolio responsibilities regarding membership and marketing.

5. Financial Report

PB introduced his financial report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He confirmed that the annual accounts had been prepared and were now ready for submission to the AGM later in the year. PB updated the meeting with regard to current membership numbers. He also explained that the Trust had recently received a small number of donations, including a further sum of £100 from Jay Enrile who lives in the Philippines. In discussion, it was agreed that the circumstances were unusual but that Jay corresponds regularly with PB and appears committed in his support of the Trust. PB confirmed that Jay had been thanked for his contribution. It was agreed that the situation be kept under review. PB was thanked for his report.

6. Project:Plan B

CH introduced this item and reminded those present of the background to the Plan B Project which was concerned with preparing for the eventuality of the football club failing. He confirmed that the preparatory work was almost complete but that the FSA had recently issued further appropriate guidance which needed to be considered and taken into account. NC suggested that it would be worthwhile for the sub group to meet again to finalise its approach before launching the project. NC to circulate information to Board colleagues which confirms a number of proposed activities to be undertaken by the Trust. Comments are invited for the sub group to consider before launch, together with any offers of assistance. NC was thanked for his efforts in drafting the Plan.

7. Activities Yearplan

CH introduced this item and explained that the purpose of introducing an Activities Yearplan is to give more structure to the work of the Board and to prevent the Trust from becoming overly reactive. Individual Board members would lead on matters consistent with their portfolio responsibilities. CH to discuss with KA and update the Board thereafter.

8. Organisational Responses

Matter deferred until more progress achieved with Project:Plan B.

9. Other Officer Update

- (i) Research and Development - RS updated the meeting on a number of matters. Firstly, a letter had been sent regarding the current state of BCFC to the club's owners in Hong Kong. The letter was being tracked. Next, he referred to information from the FSA regarding the situation at Wigan FC and identified the need to raise the profile of the issue to help get the whole question of sustainable club ownership discussed in Parliament. It was agreed that the matter should be put on to the Trust's twitter feed and a follow up newsletter appealing to our members to support an online petition should be prepared. RS to action upon his return from holiday. With regard to the ownership of St Andrews, RS explained that it appeared that a loophole had been exploited by BSH because no changes were currently recorded in the Land Registry. At best it was poor administration on the part of the football club. It was agreed that it was not likely that this matter could be pursued any further. With regard to reviewing BCFC accounts, this matter was being held in abeyance for the time being because of the current circumstances facing all football clubs and the degree of uncertainty going forward as a result of the coronavirus pandemic;

- (ii) Press and PR - in the absence of KA no verbal update was given;
- (iii) Electronic Media - BP explained that work was ongoing on the book publication referred to at previous meetings, and that the daily information releases on the twitter feed continued to be valued by members and a wider audience. CH thanked BP for his efforts;
- (iv) Membership and Marketing - in the absence of DR no verbal update was given;
- (v) Projects Management - NC explained that he had nothing further to add at this point given the current priority and workload of Plan B;
- (vi) Without Portfolio - nothing to report at this point.

10. Any Other Business.

(i) AGM 2020

RD introduced this item and explained that arrangements would soon need to commence to organise this year's AGM. Given the current circumstances associated with the coronavirus pandemic, it was likely that the meeting would need to be held remotely. After discussion it was agreed to target Saturday 21 November for the date of the meeting. RD was tasked with further planning for the meeting, including reviewing technological options, and asked to update the Board with additional details in due course.

The meeting finished at 12.50

11. Date of Next Meeting

- Saturday 17 October 2020 at 11.00 via Zoom.