

**Report on the**

**Bath City FC Board Meeting**

**24th February 2020**

**Present:** Nick Blofeld**,** John Reynolds, Martin Powell, Paul Williams, Andrew Pierce, Shane Morgan, Jon Bickley, Michael Clayton, Joy Saunders

**Apologies:** Paul Williams

**Financial Adviser:** Chris Coles

**Observers:** Carole Banwell, Bob Chester, Christopher Flanagan

1. **Re-Development**

The financial viability report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There was discussion about the implications for the planning decision.

A site visit by the Planning Committee is pencilled in for 2nd March.

The implications of the further delay of the planning hearing on the Club’s financial position were discussed, with a range of theoretical options outlined. However it was agreed that there was a limited ability to scope potential solutions until after the 11th March meeting.

1. **Comms update**

An updated comms plan was explained.

Concerns were expressed regarding the coverage by the Bath Chronicle in the previous week, but we cannot control or dictate just merely encourage a balanced approach with the media.

It was agreed to circulate draft of the speech to the planning committee amongst the Board for approval.

Creatrix are considering how supporters should be organised in advance of the planning meeting.

1. **Relocation**

There was an update on the pros and cons of relocating at certain local clubs who have been approached.

1. **Property expertise on the Board**

There wasnothing to add at this point, but we will need to strengthen our expertise during the actual development stage.

1. **Finances – Paul Williams unable to attend, papers circulated in advance**

Potentially some of the community charitable foundations in and around Bath may be able to help with bridging the cashflow gap with a loan. We will look at the details of the League’s rules, but would be surprised if there is no facility to enable loss and equity income tolerances. There was some discussion of issues around funding options.

It was agreed we need to set up a Working Group to come up with tangible plans for bridging the financial gap and that it should include representatives from across the Club.

Christopher left the meeting.

1. **Football update**

It was announced that Lloyd James has been signed.

It was agreed that the sub group will provide an update on the end of season awards.

Joy left at 8.30pm.

1. **Pricing**

Andrew circulated an analysis on pricing with two proposals for the potential leagues we could be in.

It was agreed that Jon and Andrew should recommend the final figures for both leagues and a policy on season tickets in the event of relocation. This should be signed off online before the next meeting

1. **Actions from last Board, Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

Acceptance of Minutes for January 2020: Proposed Shane and Seconded by Jon B

1. **Society**

Michael explained that both the Foundation and the Society have found Treasurers.

There are challenges around recruiting more members and committee members and the Society is looking to get momentum on recruiting.

There has been one application in so far for a commercial director.

Michael has sent Phil Tanner a summary of IT requirements post redevelopment.

The point was made that this is a key moment in the Club’s history, and we need to ensure supporters are represented in making the hard decisions. To this end the Society is involved and contributing in key meetings and decisions as the majority shareholder.

1. **Supporters**

Following some criticism received of the Club’s comms prior to the first postponement of the Concord replay Martin reported that there was much praise of the improvement re the second postponement.

Thanks from supporters were expressed to Andrew for the condition and work on the pitch in the tough weather conditions.

Martin has contacted 13 supporters to write to the Council to support the planning application.

There had been a concern from one supporter that the Youth fixtures were not promoted in the newsletter. The point has been made that the information will be included if it is provided for the editor.

Martin has circulated feedback from the supporter consultation on design and this has been sent to Phil Tanner for consideration.

Supporters who travelled to a recent away fixture were not impressed with the over-the-top segregation which is apparently in place for all matches at that ground following problems caused by one visiting club’s fans earlier in the season. It was agreed to continue the Club’s policy to only segregate at Twerton Park when absolutely necessary and to always follow police advice.

1. **Key Working Group updates/issues to resolve**
2. **Community & Foundation** – Joy’s update was circulated in advance
3. **Commercial** - Bob is supporting Kartini in getting to know existing relationships.
4. **Operations –** a new Safety Certificate for the stadium has been awarded.
5. **Any Other Business**

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1. Chris will be meeting the new Foundation Treasurer
2. It was agreed we should try to recruit a volunteer coordinator.
3. John R, Bob and Paul are to liaise re a tribute for Mike Hughes
4. Mike’s name as Vice President should be removed from the programme and website.
5. Martin will ask that the “Smoke No Joke” poster be posted on the website and in the programme.
6. Martin will represent the Club at the funeral for former player Jimmy Jenkins.
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**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 16th March