

**Report on the**

**Bath City FC Board Meeting**

**Mon 25 May**

(Video/Conference call)

Draft Minutes

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

**Apologies:** Chris Coles, Bob Chester

1. **Financial situation** **update**

Paul reported that we have received COVID related grants (Hospitality & Leisure and Job Retention Scheme)

We can reclaim employment allowance which will be offset against Employers’ NI liability. Our VAT liability can be deferred until the end of March 2021.

We have additional funds from season ticket and football related sales which can be reserved, pending clarity on what will happen with the next season.

Furlough payments continue at 80% until the end of July, so all things remaining as they are, we will be fine until then. After this, the government has indicated that employers will have to pay 25% until the end of October, but we await confirmation of what that will be 25% of.

Paul provided an update on the present situation regarding rentals.

He outlined a “worse case scenario” over the next 12 months (to May 2021) with assumptions including current contracts, new contracts due to start in August, repayment of season tickets, no football and no remedial actions taken.

Paul then gave a projection if there was some resumption of football over the same period, assuming that there would be a drop in match ticket sales plus commercial and bar income.

An official at another NLS club has offered free advice on sponsorship deals/players contracts which Paul will follow up with him.

The EFL Clubs are due to vote on how to finish the season and deal with promotions/relegations etc on 27th May. This will feed into the National League’s decision making but only the government can make the decision on the resumption of matches.

Non-contact training has started in the PL. There are ongoing discussions between the PL, EFL and National League over support for lower leagues, including possibly the distribution of the FA Cup money.

With regard to insurance, our public liability cover is part of a group scheme organised by the league and paid for by deduction from their funding to us, payments being made in July. Our insurance covers fire, property, loss of life, freezers etc.

Paul reported that Jerry remains positive and has been fielding queries from players. He has been taking online courses.

FUNDRAISING

The two options – Crowdfunding and Community Share Options - remain on the table for when we know how much and when we need to raise funds. The Community Share Option requires a 6-8 week lead in and discussions continue to pin down exactly how funds should be moved to the Club, but the process is not as onerous as the Big Bath Bid and entirely do-able.

The success of other Crowdfunding initiatives was noted: Yeovil have raised £25k; Frome £20k from an original target of £5K and Bath City Farm have raised £3k within a few days of their £50K launch.

1. **Redevelopment**

Greenacre have agreed FWP’s fees and work to try and reduce a significant proportion of the costs of the Club’s element of the development and it should be completed within a month. The core working group comprises FWP, Phil Tanner, some Board members and other advisers with a wider team including additional directors and Supporters Society representatives. The wider team has agreed the brief & “red lines.”

Turleys of Bristol have been highly recommended by several sources as planning consultants and have a track record of supporting non league clubs.

The appeal is still waiting in the background but the advice from Turley is that only a limited proportion of appeals succeed and they do not think this case is strong.

1. **Previous actions/minutes**

Actions from the previous meeting had been completed. The minutes were agreed. Proposed Andrew Pierce, seconded John Reynolds.

1. **Supporters and Society Updates**

Martin reported that the Supporters Club continues to contact mainly elderly supporters identified as vulnerable, sharing information on the support available from 3SG.

It was approached regarding a joint fundraising scheme with Clubs from around the country and discussed this with Jon but it was felt this may cause confusion when we launch our own initiatives.

The fortnightly online draw has already raised over £1k for the Club and a recent £2k donation has brought Supporters Clubs donations this year up to £14k.

Michael reported that the Society’s IGM will be held by Zoom on 23rd June. They have a subscription which will enable up to 1,000 attendees.

Michael has picked up discussions with a couple of potential candidates for the Commercial Director role.

Over 50 new members have joined as a result of identifying and contacting lapsed members. This has been due to the successful adoption of Membermojo and the hard work of Paul Brotherton.

1. **AOB**

The NHS haven’t needed to take us up on the offer of space but the Universities have been in touch looking for somewhere to store unwanted student goods before they are given to charity.

Joy reported that the Foundation are pleased with the Club’s continued support and, as agreed at the last meeting, she will check that the existing SLA with the Club still works for both sides.

Andrew explained thatthe pitch has recovered well and no major post-season work should be needed this year. He has applied for a grant from the Football Foundation which should cover general maintenance costs.

John Reynolds expressed his thanks to everyone for their work during the lockdown, particularly to Paul for his tremendous efforts. This was backed up by all others on the call.

**Date of Next Meeting**: Monday 22nd June

Meeting ended 8:19pm.