

SWFC Trust Board 08 April 2021

Present: James Silverwood, Steve Walmsley, Gary Slinn, Jenni Smith, Matt Millward, Tom Scott, Nick Hopewell and John Dyson. John and Nick attended for part of the meeting.

Apologies: Chris MacDonald and Paul Smith

Draft Minutes of 18 March were approved. Draft minutes of 4 March meeting are awaited.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 18th March.

UAC Decision

The Board noted and approved the Urgent Action Decision of 29th March 2021 regarding the Directors and Officers Insurance cover. The draft decision had been circulated to Board members for consultation and transparency purposes before made being made.

Update on the Supporter Engagement Panel

The Board were updated on recent developments and the Board noted the current position on the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel. **Action SW.**

Strategic Approach regarding the Club

A note that summarised our current priorities and approach, and which addressed other possibilities had been circulated. Arising from the discussion the Board agreed:

- We will continue to press for change in the way the club is run and utilise opportunities to make that case both to the club and wider. **All**
- We will continue to take forward the ACV process. **JSm**
- We will add a workstream addressing what the Trust might do if the Club were to fall into Administration and/or Club Assets are retained by a different owner from the owner of the club. **TS**
- We will add a further workstream regarding more detailed and specific plans for changes in how the club should be run, hopefully building this around a specific case study in sport. **NH**

Diversity

The Board received a report on recent conversations with a potential member of the Advisory Panel and discussed the capacity for the Trust to establish fan groups eg for BAME or LGBT fans. Arising from the conversation the Board agreed:

- To pursue the potential of the person joining the Advisory Panel. **GS**
- To make further contacts regarding the Proud Owls group. **SW**
- To try to recruit a board member or volunteer to add further capacity to our diversity activities. **SW**
- To establish a register of potential Trust volunteers and to seek clarification on them becoming 'Officers of the Trust'. **JS and All**
- To make further efforts to make the Trust Board and Advisory Panel more diverse (see below). **SW**

The Women's Game

A note of a side meeting between some Board members and the FSA had been circulated. Arising from the conversation the Board agreed:

- We should specifically seek to recruit a Board member who will lead on Women's game activities – both community and supporter wise. **SW**
- For that Board member to join the FSA Women's Game network
- Seek further advice from FSA on the best approach to that recruitment. **SW**
- Contact the Canaries Trust and Bristol City Supporters Trust for advice and guidance. **SW**

ACV Update

The Board received a verbal update on recent developments. Arising from the conversation the Board agreed:

- That we proceed in a way that is sensitive to the May Elections. **JS**
- We produce model letters of support for the application to be used by members etc. **JSm/JS**
- We seek FSA advice on the degree to which other fan group support will be needed.
- We contact other fan groups as appropriately to seek their support. **JS**

Board Membership and Recruitment

This was covered under the Diversity Item above

Advisory Panel Membership

The Board noted the need to diversify the Panel more and approved in principle the appointment of 2 further Panel members, subject to their final confirmation, those appointments will achieve more diversity. Board also agreed that 2 further people be approached to seek to recruit one more person to the Panel. **SW**

Follow up from the FSA EFL Network Meeting

An update note had been circulated to the Board. Arising from the conversation the Board agreed:

- That respective Board leads pick up the items that are relevant to their responsibilities. **All**
- That we seek the Engagement Panel to place the return of fans on to the agenda in order to seek clarification from the club on how they will consult fans and how fan views will inform SAG licensing decisions. **SW**
- Seek a Trust volunteer to help with this area of work. **SW**

Financial Statements

These had been circulated to Board members and the Board was happy with the relevance and clarity of the content. The Board noted that the Independent Examination had been satisfactorily completed and the Examiner is content to sign off the drafted report. The Board noted that work is still being pursued with HMRC regarding taxation exempt status and that this will be included in the notes to the accounts. **MW**

Update on AGM Planning

A note had been circulated by the Secretary who is leading on this for the Board. The Board agreed:

- We would work on the basis that it is on-line due to the uncertainties regarding the pandemic. **PS**
- We would send a further note to members to join the Elections Management Group now that an experienced Chair has been identified. **SW**

Board Members Reports

Communications – Blogs to push. ‘3 for DC’ campaign to be re-energised at the right time and in connection with the right issue. If we are relegated our message will be the need for change. Ticket prices will be a particular issue. Jenni and Tom to review. **JSm/TS**

Membership – Badges will be available w/c 12 April. **JD**

Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th April. The museum idea to be an item on the agenda. CIC idea to be tested in advance of the discussion. **JS/PS**