

SWFC Trust Board 21 October 2021

Present: Steve Walmsley, Gary Slinn, Matt Millward, Nick Hopewell, David Lee and Richard Marsh.

Apologies: Tom Scott, Jenni Smith and Paul Smith.

Draft Minutes of 22 September 2021 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

Up-date on recent events

- We are not aware of any recent Engagement Panel activity.
- Noted that the loan secured against the stadium had been extended for a further year. We are awaiting production of the Sheffield 3 Ltd accounts and the decision on the ACV application.
- It was noted that the delays in payment of 19/20 season ticket refunds had featured again in the Sheffield Star, and that Gill Furness MP has a meeting arranged with the club for mid-November.

Planning for the ACV Decision

Board members were asked to feed into Jenni any views on how we should approach communications around the ACV decision (successful or un-successful) so that we are ready if the Council makes its formal decision at the end of October. **All**

Possible FLR Announcement

Agreed to pencil in a maximum one-hour long board meeting when the FLR outcome is known so that we can consider how to manage the communication issues around it. **SW**

Co-opted Board Members

In response to the recent advertisement with Trust members the Board were pleased to note that two members had come forward. After consideration of the outcome of the meetings they had had with the Chair it was agreed to agree to their co-option onto the Board, subject to their willingness to join and their agreement to the Board Membership & Conduct Policy. **SW** It was agreed to retain the final co-option position we have available to try to secure the co-option of a female member to lead the Women's Game activity, and because the rule change allowing more than ten board members has yet to be approved by the FCA. **SW**

Trust Action Plan

Current draft had been re-circulated. The content was approved. We need to re-arrange the in-person Board session that was postponed from 23 October to focus on delivery of the plan in practice. **SW**

Trust Side Policies

The Side Policies had been approved by the Interim Board in May 2020. Now that we have an elected Board it is appropriate for that Board to consider and approve the suite of Policies. The drafts had been circulated in advance and Board approved the:

- Board Membership & Conduct Policy

- Data Retention Policy
- Disciplinary Policy
- Election Policy
- Equality Charter
- Privacy Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Standing Orders for General Meetings
- Standing Orders for Board Meetings

All documents to be dated and placed on the Trust website for information. **SW**

Badges for Members

Gary will be collecting the badges from John Dyson and will be making the arrangements for distribution whether via in-person or postal routes. **GS**

Diversity of Trust Membership

Board discussed the benefits of having some anonymised data on the breakdown of Trust membership to help us with knowing if we are representative of the fanbase, and know where we may need to target further recruitment activities. It was agreed to explore this as a possibility when we know the outcome of the FLR and the actions it is suggesting. **SW**

Board Officer Reports

- **Finance** – Matt had circulated a written report. £6204 cash at end September 2021. 790 members. HMRC have confirmed we are exempt from Corporation Tax. FCA and HMRC are aware of the change to our registered office address. Annual Return to FCA had been submitted before the end October deadline. Matt was thanked for all his work on the Annual Return.
- **FSA Liaison** – Elections to National Council coming up L1/L2 candidates had been circulated for comments. #HerGameToo campaign - SWFC Ambassador had agreed to support the Women's Game Webinar which Jenni is now leading on. **JS**. Agreed to sharing publicity for the Women's Euros 22. **SW**
- **Community** – Richard had shared a draft communication to Trust members on their views on the plan. Key areas of activity will be working with Age Concern and Zest. Richard to now finalise the plan and start implementation. **RM**

Any Other Business

- Steve and Matt to meet and sort rule change notification to FCA. **SW/MM**
- Agreed to purchase 10 places at the SWFC Community Programme fundraising Event with Mel Sterland at a cost of £150. 2 Board members to attend with 8 places available to Trust members. **SW**
- Following receipt of a letter from a member, agreed to check if that member wishes to be involved in shaping a survey of member views on the fan experience on match-days etc **SW**

Next Meeting

A forward plan of dates had been shared via WhatsApp. The next meeting is 18 November at 7.15pm **SW**

