

In attendance: Andy Roberts (AR, Chair), John Morgan (JM, Secretary), Bob Souster (BS), Derek Krajewski (DK), Keith Buckby (KB) and Michael Walker (MW)

Apologies: Bob Clarke (BCI), Kevin Simons (KS), Andy Cooper (AC)

1.	Welcome
	AR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	Minutes of meetings – 3 June
	<p>Agreed as a correct record, proposed by BS and seconded by KB.</p> <p>A supplementary meeting was held on 30 June to discuss the composition of a letter to NTFC in respect of the planning application for blanket warehousing at Sixfields now with West Northamptonshire Council.</p> <p>AC said questioning around the planning applications and wider club issues should be done separately and agreed to formulate a draft letter and questions for the club.</p> <p>MW referred to a circulated message from KS and said that this should be used as a basis for questions to the club, stressing that questions relating to the planning application should be confined to matters which were of a material planning consideration.</p> <p>The option to object the planning application, or otherwise, was considered but the board held the view that it would be best to wait to see the response, if any, from the club - prior to the planning application public feedback deadline of 24 July - before making a decision.</p>
3.	Matters arising
	None
4.	NTFC items
A	<p><u>Engagement</u></p> <p>MW led a discussion about improving engagement by the Trust with the football club, the membership and the wider fanbase.</p> <p>He said he worked alongside AC in formulating the proposals. AC was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>MW felt that a constructive and polite letter to the football club would be a good first step to improving Trust relations with the football club.</p> <p>BS said that a shareholder of the football company we had the right to ask question of the club's owners and executive.</p> <p>MW asked whether the board, in principle, whether the Trust would accept an invitation to join the Fans Advisory Board and appoint a representative. DK and KB indicated they would be open to any suggestion, AR said it would depend on how the FAB was constituted in terms of elected appointments and an open agenda.</p>

	<p>MW raised that a number of fans on a message board had asked him about the Trust's relationship with Cilldara around the bid that was made for the land at Sixfields three years ago. He asked whether full detail about the relationship and the deal could be placed in the public domain?</p> <p>Discussion took place around this and AR said that some detail about the land bid had been given in a public statement to BBC Northampton on 14 November last year.</p> <p>JM said that information had been shared with all current board members but it was agreed that the release of full details into the public domain would raise issues relating to the breach third party confidentiality.</p> <p>On member and fan engagement, MW suggested that communications should be more frequent, using a greater variety of media and channels, and he said that the board should consider an online survey to explore how members and the wider fanbase felt about the stadium development, facilities for supporters and engagement with the football club.</p> <p>AR agreed this was desirable but pointed out that a survey of members and the wider fanbase was conducted in 2024 in relation to stadium development.</p>
B	<p><u>Football Governance Bill campaign</u></p> <p>JM updated the meeting, stating that the Football Governance Bill had now passed through the Lords and the Commons and was awaiting Royal Assent.</p> <p>A report around the Trust's campaign seeking primacy in the legislation for Supporters Trusts was submitted to the Bill committee but, together with a number of other proposed amendments from supporter groups including the FSA, was not discussed by MPs.</p> <p>A motion to the Football Supporters Association AGM on 14 June, seconded by the Blues Trust (Birmingham City), requesting the FSA to adopt our campaign was not supported.</p> <p>Independent from the FSA and Fair Game, the Trust has joined the informal 'Trusts First' WhatsApp group being led by Fulham Supporters Trust.</p> <p>It would seek to exchange ideas and, where appropriate, information relating to the activities of the member Trusts.</p>
C	<p><u>Formal complaint by NTFC</u></p> <p>The Trust wrote to the FSA to outline its concerns about the process undertaken in reviewing a complaint made by NTFC against a board member.</p> <p>BS also wrote to the FSA in a personal capacity to express his disappointment in the FSA's complaints process.</p> <p>MW suggested that the board invite representatives from the FSA to attend a future board meeting.</p>
D	<p><u>East stand and land update</u></p> <p>An agreed letter was ready to send to the club asking the club questions about the land development proposal for Sixfields, giving the club a week to respond prior to the council deadline for feedback to the planning application.</p> <p>MW proposed that the club be given longer than a week to reply to the letter but other board members did not support that view, agreeing that the Trust really required more information about the planning application prior to the deadline so as to be in the best position to decide whether or not to support, comment or object the application.</p>
E	<p><u>NTFC AGM</u></p> <p>The club's Annual General Meeting will take place at Sixfields on 24 July and, subject to availability, the Trust hopes to be able to present at the meeting.</p>

5.	Treasurer's Report
	<p>BC circulated a report to board members.</p> <p>Charity And Community Bank Account showed one payment of £655.00 to Country Lion for the Crawley away game. Two payments to Andy Roberts, £31,18 for Zoom calls and Membermojo membership application renewal for £175. The balance at 24th June was £39,168.68.</p> <p>The Northampton Town Trust Travel Club account at NatWest, increased to £17,379.95 during the month of April. The money paid in was for the Crawley trip of £576.90. This is the most recent statement.</p> <p>NatWest Club 500 (still showing as Club 250) account balance was £27,247.02 at 30 June. We paid out £265.67 including £250,00 in prize money.</p> <p>We have changed signatories to delete Trina Smith and added have added those of Andy Roberts, Robert Souster and Bob Clarke to Roger Averill, who manages NatWest accounts on a day to day basis.</p>
6.	Membership Report
	Membermojo has been renewed.
7.	Cobblers Travel
	Roger Averill is working out travel options for the forthcoming season and these will be discussed by the board in due course.
8.	Any other business
	<p>The meeting agreed to explore the option of a West Northamptonshire Council member representative being co-opted to the Trust board. AR to contact democratic services at WNC.</p> <p>MW said he had applied for a vacant trustee position with Northampton Town Community Trust.</p>
10.	Date of next meeting – 4 September