

In attendance: Andy Roberts (AR, Chair), John Morgan (JM, Secretary), Bob Clarke (Treasurer, BC), Keith Buckby (KB), Derek Krajewski (DK) and Kevin Simons (KS)

Apologies: Bob Souster (BS)

Guest: Councillor John East

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	AR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of meetings – 13 November</b>
	Agreed as a correct record, proposed by DK and seconded by BC.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>
	None
<b>4.</b>	<b>NTFC items</b>
<b>A</b>	<p><u>Football Governance Bill</u></p> <p>AR reported that the Trust had fed comments into the Independent Football Regulator consultation around fan engagement and other Trusts had done the same. There was little else to report. Final licensing rules for clubs are set to be published this summer and clubs must secure a provisional licence from the IFR before the start of the 2027/28 season.</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><u>East stand and land update</u></p> <p>The club has not responded to the questions asked by the Trust of the club, in particular to concerns around matchday car parking at Sixfields next season. Some feedback was given via the Fan Advisory Board.</p> <p>The Trust's non-statutory consultee submission has now appeared on West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) planning portal.</p> <p>The Trust's WNC liaison representative, Councillor John East, told the meeting that he was still following up on local concerns around the planning application – some of these concerns are shared by the Trust – but there was no indication yet as to when the application would be heard by WNC's strategic planning committee.</p>
<b>C</b>	<p><u>Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>The date for the Annual General Meeting has now been fixed for 23 February (8pm), an in-person meeting at the Obelisk Centre in Northampton. Papers in relation to the AGM will be circulated to members shortly.</p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Constitution review</b>
	<p>A standalone meeting to agree new model rules for the Supporters Trust in light of the football reform programme being brought forward will be held early in the New Year. JM suggested that revision should concentrate on three areas – the objects of a Supporters Trust, eligibility of Trust directors and the status of future ordinary and general meetings.</p> <p>.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Football Supporters' Association affiliate membership</b>
	<p>Following the decision taken at the November meeting, the Supporters Trust formally resigned as an affiliate member of the Football Supporters' Association on 2 January.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Infrastructure Foundation vision</b>
	<p>The Infrastructure Foundation vision document has had oversight by the board but further refinement is still necessary before it is finalised.</p> <p>AR said there had to be a clear focus on sustainability given football finances and the intense pressure being brought to bear on clubs at all levels of the game, be they privately or community owned.</p> <p>An Infrastructure Foundation discussion can only take place with the football club, principally the key stakeholder, and at present the club's owners were not open to discussions with the Trust.</p> <p>AR asked Councillor East if the council had given any thoughts to building a large stadium in the Northampton area, capable of hosting large-scale sporting events as part of the council's stated ambition. Councillor East said he was not aware of any discussions around these lines.</p> <p>KS felt that as far as the Cobblers are concerned, his personal view was that Sixfields was not an ideal home for the football club and that future consideration should be given to re-locating a new stadium in the east of the town to capitalise on the club's strong supporter base in the Wellingborough area.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>1975/6 Cobblers team honorary membership</b>
	<p>AR said that a reunion event for players from 1975/76 was in the planning and that it was hoped that the football club would host guests from the Bill Dodgin promotion side at the home game with Doncaster Rovers in April.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>
	<p>BC reported that the Co-op Charity and Community Bank Account showed two payments, Country Lion £548 for Peterborough away trip and £40.54 to Andy Roberts for Zoom cost November and December £33.58, plus postage £6.96. The balance at 24 December was £37,801.78.</p> <p>NatWest Northampton Town Trust Travel Club account showed two payments in during the month of December by Roger Averill for the Peterborough game, £560.43 on SumUp and £262 cash, total £822.43. We made a profit on this trip and the balance on this account at 16 December stood at £18,869.70.</p> <p>NatWest Club 500 (still showing as Club 250) Current Account payments in £675.00 had payments out of £750 and payment in of £695, balance at 31 December of £28,881.14.</p> <p>Crouchers based in Milton Keynes are now our Accountants replacing Clifford Towers. Our main contact Linda Bradley has moved with them but will hand over our account. There should be no disruption with statutory accounts which will be complete in January.</p>

<b>10.</b>	<b>Membership Report</b>
	AR said that membership renewals had been issued at the turn of the year and that members need to be fully signed up by 2 February to be able to vote at the forthcoming AGM.
<b>11.</b>	<b>Travel Club Report</b>
	AR said that the next coach travel was planned for the away game at Blackpool on 24 January. KS moved a vote of thanks to Roger Averill in recognition of his dedication and support to organising away travel for Cobblers fans over many years. This was unanimously agreed by all board members present.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
	KS said he was concerned at lines being blurred between the football club and its Community Trust, as these were two separate organisations and should remain independent of each other.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	Thursday 5 February