

In attendance: Andy Roberts (AR, Chair), John Morgan (JM, Acting Secretary), Bob Souster (BS), Bob Clarke (BC, Treasurer), Derek Krajewski (DK), Kevin Simons (KS)

Apologies: Ian Atkins (IA), Keith Buckby

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	AR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting – 08 February 2024</b>
	Agreed as a correct record – proposed by DK, seconded by BC.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>
	None
<b>4.</b>	<b>NTFC items</b>
<b>A</b>	<p><u>Sixfields stand and land update</u></p> <p>AR reported that the deal around the stand and land at Sixfields was still waiting to be signed off. The Supporters Trust finally received a reply to its stand and land deal questions from West Northamptonshire Council leader Jonathan Nunn on 22 February, just prior to the AGM. He confirmed that the deal would be signed within the next few weeks. His response was circulated to members, along with a report of the AGM.</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><u>Fans Advisory Board</u></p> <p>The first meeting of the club’s Fans Advisory Board was scheduled to take place on the same evening of the board meeting, 7 March.</p>
<b>C</b>	<p><u>Travel for disabled supporters to a future away game</u></p> <p>IA has kindly agreed that money raised from club training kit from the late 1990s go towards funding travel - for disabled supporters connected to the club’s Community Trust - to the away game at Wycombe Wanderers on 16 March. Bhyll Stephenson, who travels on the Cobblers Travel/Earls Barton coaches, however stepped back from the organisation this following a letter he received from the club’s supporter rep Tom Cliffe, whom he had asked to source tickets. Bhyll shared some of the contents of the letter with AR – following board discussion of the correspondence, it was agreed to record our dismay at Tom’s comments and its general tone. AR and Cobblers travel secretary Roger Averill have taken over the organisation of the travel for the disabled supporters.</p>

<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><u>Gazebo for Sixfields Sounds DJ</u></p> <p>Following a request from Roger Averill, the board agreed to purchase a gazebo for Mat Amos, the Sixfields Sound DJ who operates from his car outside Carr’s Bar at Sixfields on matchdays. The gazebo will enable Mat to more effectively play his records and entertain both home and away fans when the weather is wet and windy.</p>
<p><b>E</b></p>	<p><u>West Northamptonshire Council meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed to write to freeholder West Northamptonshire Council later in March to organise a meeting discussing infrastructure improvements at Sixfields Stadium.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p>
	<p>BC said that there was little change to the accounts since last month’s report and the updated position that was reported at the AGM on 22 February. Papers have now all gone to Clifford Towers for preparation of the 2022/23 accounts and members will be updated shortly. The balance on the main Co-Op account stands at £47,099.19</p> <p>AR added that the Cobblers travel account with Nat West should soon be fully accessible and that a new mandate was being prepared to include new signatories. Nat West have stated they will make a donation to the account in recognition of the complaint lodged for the bank’s failure to make the required changes in June 2022.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Cobblers Travel and Earls Barton Cobblers</b></p>
	<p>No update but coaches are being run to the away games at Wycombe on 16 March and the final match of the season at Barnsley on 27 April.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Club 500</b></p>
	<p>No update</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Membership</b></p>
	<p>AR reported the death of long-standing Trust member Roy Parker – the father of Sixfields Travel’s Barry Parker. Roy was the seventh person to apply for Trust membership in 1992 and was one of the first to volunteer as a bucket collector in the difficult days of Michael McRitchie. Some dissatisfaction with the operation of the Trust at the turn of the century led to the formation of Sixfields Travel in 2000. BS said he had written a memorial for Roy for the club’s website.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Infrastructure Foundation survey</b></p>
	<p>There was much discussion amongst the board as to the future direction of the football club and the urgent need to improve infrastructure and facilities at Sixfields stadium. The board agreed to circulate an infrastructure survey among Trust members, along the lines of the Football Conversation that went out in 2021, but this time specifically gauging opinion as to whether there is an appetite for the introduction of an Infrastructure Foundation at NTFC, similar to the one that has proved so successful north of the border at Heart Of Midlothian. The survey will go out to Trust members in March and will then be broadened out to the wider fanbase in April.</p>

<b>10.</b>	<b>Support for Rochdale AFC and Torquay United</b>
	AR said that he had written to both Rochdale and Torquay United football clubs, who are both experiencing considerable difficulties at the time of writing, offering support be it practical or financial if this was desirable. Replies are being awaited.
<b>11.</b>	<b>Correspondence with West Ham United Supporters Trust</b>
	KS said that he had written to a number of other Supporters Trusts on the subject of football governance and had received an interesting reply from West Ham United Supporters Trust in respect of Fan Advisory Board. He suggested organising a Zoom meeting with WHUST in the near future.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	<b>Thursday 11 April at 7.30pm, via Zoom</b>