

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

Apologies: Ian Atkins

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Welcome</b>   |
|           | AR welcomed everyone to the meeting.   |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Minutes of meeting – 12 December 2024</b>   |
|           | Agreed as a correct record, proposed by BC and seconded by BS.   |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Matters arising</b>   |
|           | None   |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>NTFC items</b>  |
| <b>A</b>  | <p>Formal complaint from NTFC against board member [REDACTED]</p> <p>The Chairman reported that on 13 December 2024 he had received a formal complaint from Kelvin Thomas (KT) in the name of NTFC about comments made by [REDACTED] on social media. The complaint letter had been circulated to the Trust’s directors for their information and consideration. The thrust of the complaint was that KT wanted [REDACTED] to be removed as a director.</p> <p>The complaint was considered at length. JM reported that he had written to KT on behalf of the board on 27 November 2024 stating the board’s position.</p> <p>The board did not see any reason to alter that clearly stated position. In answer to a question raised the Chairman reported to the meeting that no other complaint or comments had been received by the Trust about any comments made by [REDACTED] on social media recently or in the past.</p> <p>It was also noted that [REDACTED] had voluntarily ceased to make any posts on social media matters about NTFC matters.</p> <p><i>Note: There was at this point a discussion about personal health matters which cannot be disclosed.</i></p> <p>The board unanimously decided ([REDACTED] abstaining) that the complaint was not a matter for the Trust and that KT’s attempts to impute responsibility to the Trust for an individual’s comments was rejected in its entirety as having no foundation in fact or in law.</p> <p>No further action would be taken and JM was asked to write to NTFC on behalf of the board to advise the club accordingly.</p> |

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| <p><b>B</b></p> <p><b>C</b></p> <p><b>D</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>F</b></p> | <p><u>Sixfields stand and land</u></p> <p>AR reported that the internal amendments to the East Stand plans had been accepted by West Northamptonshire Council although a new planning application would be required for certain external aspects. It is expected that the stand will be complete by the end of March.</p> <p>The club chairman had stated in a radio interview that the likely development on the land behind the East Stand would be warehousing.</p> <p>The Trust hopes that the club will now clarify how such a development will benefit Northampton Town FC in the long term.</p> <p><u>Football Governance Bill moving to the House of Commons</u></p> <p>JM said that it was hoped that Northampton South MP Mike Reader will be able to host a meeting of Supporters Trusts and MPs when the Football Governance Bill moves into the House of Commons for further scrutiny. We are awaiting an update from his office. A report on the Bill from the House of Lords is expected imminently.</p> <p><u>Shareholding to Supporters Trust</u></p> <p>KS said that he hoped to secure an additional number of shares for the Supporters Trust from a long-standing Cobblers fan who was willing to donate them. The board agreed to explore this further.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure Foundation and 2030 Vision statement</u></p> <p>AR said he hoped that the Trust's Vision 2030 report, incorporating details of an Infrastructure Foundation model along the lines of that successfully adopted by Heart of Midlothian FC, could be brought forward at some point in 2025. KS suggested to look at the end of the current season. It is hoped, in the fullness of time, that the report can be a starting point for a conversation about partnership working around improving the club's infrastructure, irrespective of the club's prevailing ownership model.</p> <p><u>New East Midlands Supporters Trust group</u></p> <p>AR is attending the inaugural meeting of a new East Midlands Supporters Trust grouping at Grantham FC later this month. Other participating clubs are Grimsby Town, Leicester City, Lincoln City, Peterborough United and Scunthorpe United. Top of the agenda for discussion will be the Football Governance Bill.</p> |
| <p><b>5.</b></p>  | <p><b>Treasurer's Report and Cobblers Travel</b></p> <p>BC reported that the Co-op Account showed two payments in December - £31.18 to AR for Zoom calls and £710 to Country Lion for the Rotherham coach travel. The balance on the account is £42,857.10. The Co-Op Bank is in the process of being taken over by the Coventry Building Society.</p> <p>NatWest account, also identified as the Business Current Account, is £16,259.43 There are two credits in the month both from Roger Averill for £258.06 and £447.00 from coach trips. RA is taking credit and debit card payments as well as cash.</p> <p>RA has the NatWest Club 500 account under his control with a balance of £24,731.29. BC now has RA's spreadsheet up to that date incorporating year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 but does not get monthly statements and will request same from RA or NatWest direct to support the figures presented to the accountants.</p>  |

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|           | There was no Cobblers Travel update but it was planned to run coaches to Exeter City and Peterborough United later in the season.   |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Membership</b>   |
|           | <p>Membership renewals went out to lapsed members on 6 January.</p> <p>JM suggested that no new members be accepted and processed between the date of the notification of the Annual General Meeting, 27 January, and the day after the meeting, 21 February.</p> <p>Also, new and renewing members between those dates would not have voting powers at the AGM.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make this provision in the AGM correspondence which will be circulated to members.</p> |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Club 500</b>   |
|           | No update   |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Any other business</b>   |
|           | <p>AR requested that the board approve a decision to no longer circulate share certificates to new members unless specifically requested. This would help cut down on administration and costs.</p> <p>A new electronic age and backed up membership ledger renders the distribution of share certificates obsolete and many other societies have stopped doing so. This was agreed by the board.</p>   |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Date of next meeting</b>   |
|           | 6 February 2025   |