

Saints City Trust Annual General Meeting
Saints Bar 7th October 2019 19:30



Saints City Trust Board members present: Ian Rogers (IR); Ian Oakley(IO); Aaron Paea(AP); John Bracken(JB) and Duncan McLeod (DM)

1. Welcome and Introductions

DM opened the meeting at which 14 Trust members attended. A full list of attendees is available from DM. DM introduced the Board members present and particularly welcomed Ian Rogers continuing his recovery from illness. Ian Oakley had taken over as Interim Chair of the Trust. DM then gave a brief explanation of the format of the meeting and the documents previously circulated.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from 17 members: Michael Holland, John Sylvester, Dave Church, Frank Godman, Iona Hilliard, Sarah Hilliard, Barry Hilliard, David Miles, Sophie Brooks, Tim Pheby, Bob Johnson, Joan Willacy, Stella Winters, Ted Winters, Gavin Rumble, Steve Whiting, Gordon Kenneford and one nonmember Colin Toms.

3. Minutes of last AGM 3rd October 2018

There was one specific matter arising. The £436 raised in memory of Clive Churchhouse had been put towards the cost of a defibrillator at the ground.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Chair's Report

IO then spoke about the Annual Report that was made available to all present and was on the Trust's website.

IO set out how funds raised had been spent including pitch reinstatement and repairs to the boiler. He described the activities that had raised the funds.

IO then raised the impact of the rise in admission prices on crowds and match day revenues. He described the representations made by the Trust with other supporters made to the owners to oppose the increase. This included at a recent meeting which also discussed prices at Non-League day.

IO set out what the Trust aimed to do in the next year. This included increased fund raising activities and recruiting new Board and general Trust members. He recognised this would be difficult in the current environment.

5. Treasurer's Report

JB presented the Treasurer's Report including an explanation of the final accounts for 2018/2019. Again these were made available to all present and on the website. JB highlighted the income and expenditure account with a surplus of £779 for the

year compared with £1,281 in 2017/18. The accumulated balances amounted to £17,016 which was raised entirely by subscriptions and donations.

It was noted that an independent examination of the accounts had been undertaken by Patricia Bennett and her statement was included in the documents.

The accounts were unanimously adopted. JB then moved a resolution to disapply the obligation to appoint auditors for the 2019/2020 accounts. This was unanimously adopted.

IO then moved a resolution that had been circulated in advance to confirm that the Trust reserves will be retained to seek and obtain a shareholding in the Football Club. This confirmed current policy. This was unanimously agreed.

6. Ratify appointment of 3 members to Board

DM set out that the Trust could have up to 7 elected Board members. For a number of years there had only been 5 and new nominations were welcome. It was policy for current members to seek reelection at least every 3 years and normally 2. At this AGM 3 members Ian Rogers, Ian Oakley and Gavin Rumble were seeking reelection. The meeting agreed their reelection unanimously.

7. Report on Membership

DM gave details of membership numbers. There were 93 paid up members in 2018/19. For the current year 69 members had joined to date. Further numbers were expected but it was likely numbers would be down on previous years. There was some discussion around the reasons for this and it was felt the controversy around admission prices was a major contributor. It was also felt that the Trust needed to consider its role and offer to supporters.

8. Questions and Answer Session

Lee Wood provided an update on the activities of Non-League day on 12th October and Stand By Your Saints(SBYS). This included efforts to reduce admission prices, encourage younger fans and various community initiatives, including a day at the ground on 19th April. He also raised the possibilities of even closer links between the Trust and SBYS. This was welcomed by the meeting and it was agreed that this would be discussed in the near future.

Members also raised issues relating to the relationship with Watford. The poor standard of external lighting around the ground was highlighted and it was agreed the Trust would write to the Club. Members pointed out the lack of match posters and the negative impact of TV's not working in the bar after matches.

9. Any Other Business

The meeting was formally closed at 8.45 and thanks given to those who had attended and to Morton for opening the Bar.