

**DRAFT**  
**GLOUCESTER CITY AFC SUPPORTERS TRUST**

**Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting,  
Monday 25 March 2024, at New Meadow Park.**

**Present** – Robin Mogg [Chair], Trevor King [Treasurer], Paul Clark, Judith Evans, Paul Halford (phone link), Dave Jones, Matt Phillips and Alan Dawkins [Acting Secretary].

**Apologies** received from Toby Ackland, Ian de Maria, Tim Lezard, Chris Palmer

Steve Rowbotham was an invited guest specifically for item 7

1. **Minutes** of previous meeting approved, unamended. There were no matters arising.
2. **New Trust External Director.** Paul Clark was co-opted as an external director and will serve, initially, until the 2024 AGM.
3. **Treasurer's report** – Current account balance £6743.88 (plus £24.25 on deposit). However, among other commitments there is a 100 club draw prize pending and various funds allocated to ground improvements etc.  
**Total available funds** therefore c£5800. Shop sales have continued to go well but most of the Trust's own items are sold out (little point ordering more now with few matches left and uncertainty over next year's kits etc.) As always it would be helpful for the Club to determine and order next season's kit as soon as possible.  
**Programme sales** have been steady - and modestly profitable partly thanks to the tight control over how many are printed each match. Thanks are due to Paul Clark for posting (at own expense) match programmes to far-off supporters.  
**Spending authorised:** £50 for supplies to David Miller who continues to labour tirelessly as unpaid gardener (among many other tasks). The Trust will also fund the purchase of a new petrol strimmer (quotes to be obtained: NB trawl of internet suggests a big variation down to size, weight, robustness and quality £100-£300++)
4. **Membership** - News of the share initiative has led to a further rise in new memberships: now standing at 102, of which 55 are T Enders.
5. **End of season awards** - Consult club but in principle would be good to organise one-preferably after one of the 3 remaining home matches
6. **New Secretary** - needed for next season, ideally before AGM. Will advertise (AD to draft short advert).

**7. Club shares - way forward**

Matt Phillips updated the Meeting on the Community Ownership proposal with its structure comprising a Trust-led oversight board and a professional executive Football Club board beneath. This sort of model, or something similar, is proving popular as a way of promoting community ownership thanks in part to the Trust's ability to issue "Community Shares" to subscribers. The Football Supporters Association stands ready to help on this model and in the issuance of community shares.

Steve Rowbotham gave his take on how external investors might be persuaded to join.

*[Edited – a further discussion about the model and way forward followed].*

The Board thanked MP for his Trojan efforts in getting things this far and a formal vote of thanks was given to Steve Rowbotham for his insight and interest.

## **8. Any Other Business**

i The absence of staff and leadership within the FC is continuing to cause difficulties, particularly as regards many of the routine house- and ground-keeping activities which rely to a great extent on volunteers (and David Miller in particular). At least there have been signs of improvement in the bar under Dave Herridge. One possibility which could help at games when the bar is closed would be to at least ensure water and beverages are available by having a facility in the club shop provided it is, as planned, moved to be adjacent to the bar area next season.

ii There has been some rapprochement with TEOSC but further work is needed and squabbling in public is both unproductive and unseemly.

iii All set fair for the Skittles night - maybe a plea for stickers via the COF?

## **Next Meeting**

Monday April 18: 7pm New Meadow Park

*Alan Dawkins, 26 March 2024*

## **ACTION LIST As at 26 March**

Money to David Miller

Investigate/acquire Strimmer

Awards Night

New Secretary

AGM date