

## ENGLAND & WALES FOOTBALL COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**TIME:** 13:00 to 16:00

**LOCATION:** The Camden room (Conference room), Lower Ground floor  
CAN Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH



### REPORT

#### Present:

- Daniel Crawford [DC]
- Katrina Law [KL]
- Michael Bradbury [MB]
- Neil Le Milliere (Chair) [NLM]
- Peter Lloyd [PL]
- Roger Ellis [RE]
- Tim Hartley [THa]
- Tim Hillyer [THi]

#### In attendance:

- Ashley Brown (CEO) [AB]
- Deborah Dilworth (Network Manager) [DD]
- James Mathie (Head of England & Wales, & Club Development) [JM]
- Malcolm Clarke (Chair, Football Supporters Federation [FSF]) (for item 7) [MC]
- Nicola Hudson (via Skype) [NH]
- Vicki Goodfellow (Network Co-ordinator) (Minutes) [VG]

#### 1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Brian Burgess [BB], George Bower [GB], Hannah Dawson [HD] and Peter Martin [PM].

NLM welcomed the new council members and members gave a brief introduction.

#### 2. Minutes and report from the previous meeting

Subject to three typing error changes the minutes and report from the previous meeting were approved.

#### 3. Matters arising

##### Item 3.1

JM said that we would contact Clive Betts again if he is elected, and we decide this is the best way forward.

##### Item 7.1

THa asked if members are aware about the recent letter from Tracey Crouch MP.

JM confirmed that a survey about whether clubs were following the structure dialogue rules had been circulated. We will share the full report and will be discussing it with the minister.

##### Action:

- **VG** to include Tracey Crouch MP's letter in the forthcoming important notices email

##### Item 8.1

PL raised the questions as to whether a system has been organised for the chairing/minute taking of Premier League Trust meetings which have been agreed to be held before the FSF Premier League meetings.

No FSF meeting has currently been set so AB said that we are happy to Chair and set the PL Trust only meetings if the FSF don't schedule another meeting.

##### Item 8.2

DC stated that he has spoken with some English Football League [EFL] members and they are concerned with the lack of engagement with The Football League. The members also want to discuss best practice.

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AB said that the launch of the new platform would help with member engagement and that the launch was expected to take place later this month.

DD is the new EFL representative and is getting up to speed with the role. The Football League meeting with supporter representatives organised by the FSF that SD attends has been scheduled for next week

#### Action:

- **JM** to follow up with FSF to see if they are scheduling the Premier League and EFL meetings

#### 4. **Board report**

NLM reported that he raised the issues about the Co-op Bank and how it affects our members' at the board meeting. It was decided that no additional guidance would be given.

#### Action:

- **VG** to add some information to the Important Notices email

Item 7: KL raised concerns about the board's stance on a SD / FSF merger as the majority of the Premier League trusts support exploring the possibility of one national organisation. NLM commented that the Premier League trusts are different from the rest of the movement and suggested that KL raised her concerns with the Premier League group.

AB reported that our funders asked us to look into shared services but the result showed that there wasn't much of a cost saving, however they have asked us to look into a merger. We are having ongoing discussions with Kevin Miles of the FSF and had a meeting with them to look into what a merged organisation would look like. The idea of a merger would be discussed at the organisations AGM's.

Council members discussed their own views on the merger.

#### 5. **KPI Updates**

JM confirmed that we had just under £1m over a three year funding cycle from the Fans Fund with approximately 150 KPI's to meet.

##### 5.1 (Fans Fund) & 5.2 (Power to Change)

JM ran through the reports and answered questions.

THi wanted to place on record a thank you to JM and the staff team for their work.

#### Actions:

- **JM** to ask for a time commitment from Planys Mobile on the new SD Hub
- It was suggested that we ask our members organisation for donations via an email campaign. It was **AGREED** that this would be raised with the SD board
  - JM said that he is working to build up the club network through the Power to Change programme discussed earlier

#### 6. **Divisional Reports**

##### 6.1 **Premier League**

Discussed in item three

##### 6.2 **EFL**

Discussed in item three

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#### 6.3 Non-League

NH updated the council on the latest meeting with the National League where she put forward a structured dialogue proposal. They also discussed a potential fans' award which could be presented at the Play-off Final or AGM

Action:

- **NH** to circulate notes after the meeting

#### 6.4 Clubs

JM reported on the recent Network Meetings which were also live streamed. He confirmed the next get together is planned at the Supporters Summit on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

MB asked if there was any work around ground grading with the FA. JM said there hadn't been but the structure dialogue work has presented us a good opportunity to do this when we next meet with the FA.

Action:

- **JM & MB** to discuss how to take the issue of ground grading forward

#### 7. FA Supporter Representative Update

MC updated the council on the most recent meeting of the FA Council where they had discussed reform proposals that were put forward by Sport England [SE]. There were three areas where the FA disagreed with SE but SE agreed to the FA's current structure.

There will be a review of the current committee structure. There are currently 29 committees and MC has advocated for members outside of the FA Council to be included.

There was a meeting about the way the FA Council operates. Recommendations were made and have now been adopted.

MC reported that the proposal to have a second supporter representative had gone to the secretary but was unsure of how the process would work. AB said that we are looking into compiling a list of candidates but anyone will be able to put themselves forward. MC said that they needed to be appointed by the July meeting and that there needs to be a job specification. One position will be national game and one professional game. MC confirmed that his position is up for nomination.

NLM stated that the board would discuss a process for electing a representative and will be circulated to the council.

#### 8. Supporters Summit

VG provided an update on the Supporters Summit plans which is taking place at St. George's Park on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### 9. Online platforms

It was **AGREED** that this overview for Council members would be done online

Action:

- **JM** to arrange a time for an online demonstration

#### 10. Regulatory Reform

JM said that he had received a number of useful contributions to the paper having circulated it to the SD Board, SD Council, FSF and experts in this field We will continue to develop the draft.

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Action:

- **JM** to share the paper with MC, the board and council

#### 11. **AOB**

No other points were raised

#### 12. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be taking place from midday on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at CAN Mezzanine.