

Preston North End And Preston Supporters Collective



Minutes of scheduled meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 6pm in the Boardroom at Deepdale

Attendees: Ben Astley (PSC), John Billington (PSC), Kim Ramshead (PSC), Chris Pope (PSC), Bill Whisker (PSC), Rick Cartwright (PSC), John Smith (PSC), Peter Ridsdale (PNE), Ben Rhodes (PNE), Hannah Broadley (PNE), Jack Mountain (PNECET), Jonathan Counce (PNE).

Apologies: None.

1. Matters Arising From The Previous Meeting (June 2022)

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting and there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda. PR paid tribute to Alex Tyson and said that the thoughts of the club were with the family, friends and members of the Collective who knew him. JB said that the family were very appreciative of everything the club had done.

2. Merchandising

A discussion was had with regards to future merchandising opportunities, with PR and BR providing an update from the club's perspective. JB asked about John Harrison Sports doing a retro range and he was advised to contact BR to discuss.

3. Catering And Permanent Fanzone Update

There was a discussion about ongoing aims to improve the catering operation and PR said that every option was being looked at to further enhance offerings and service to supporters. PR also confirmed that a tender will be out shortly for the new permanent fan zone in the Alan Kelly Town End, with the aim of completing the work for the first home game after the World Cup break.

4. Matchday Experience – Ticketing/Stewarding/Disabled Supporters/Safe Standing

BA raised the issue of stewarding at recent games in particular the Bill Shankly Kop for home fans. BR explained that the SGSA (Sports Ground Safety Authority) had been talking to many clubs about dealing with standing and threatening action and that stewarding had been asked to try and ensure gangways were clear. PR said that all clubs had been having trouble getting stewards and that all PNE stewards were currently being DBS checked, but their approach would be raised internally before the next games. BA asked about the amount of people abusing the U11 system. PR said this had been a problem, but the action had been successful and many people had admitted wrongdoing and agreed to pay the money owed. BA asked about the Blackpool announcement and how it would be policed. PR explained that the police had met with he and BR and said the game at Deepdale had to be 12.30pm kick-off, which had been incorrectly publicised. He also said the police had acknowledged last year at Bloomfield Road did not go as they would have hoped and had learnt the lessons from it. RC said that the offering to disabled supporters had been hit and miss. BR confirmed this had been raised with Heathcotes by Zoe Hall and that they should see an improvement in this. BA asked if

half season tickets would be sold; PR said this would be looked at, but couldn't imagine they wouldn't. BA asked about safe standing. PR said this formed part of the discussions with the SGSA, referenced earlier, and that the club had to cost this prior to Christmas, but any decision would be on an affordability basis.

5. Women's Football

BA asked whether the World Cup break would provide an opportunity to further promote the women's team and whether there might be an opportunity to play a game at Deepdale during this period – or even Springfields or Euxton. He also asked about medium to longer term plans for facilities for them. PR said the club would look at the fixture, but a training ground may be easier given the need to look after the pitch during the winter months, as Deepdale was fibre sand based and not DESSO. BR explained that the Trust had also been awarded an 'emerging talent centre' with a full-time women's and girls officer being appointed. He also said the club had been in contact with the City Council and other bodies about potential funding for an indoor dome at Springfields.

6. Community Engagement

BA asked about an update on volunteering opportunities, including the bricks. JC agreed to look further at this and liaise with PSC about this. CP talked about tackling loneliness and how the club, PSC and Trust could work together on this. It was agreed that PSC would engage with Tom Drake and PNECET about this and try and progress it.

7. Communications To Supporters

BA said the statement from Craig Hemmings was welcomed, but said fans were worried about the financial model and also about mixed messages during the summer transfer window. PR explained that the budget was very clear to everyone internally and this never changed, but acknowledged some of the messaging did not help the narrative. He also said that a self-sustainable model in the Championship would only likely be achievable with a fairer redistribution of wealth in football, but this was on the agenda of everyone in the EFL. He explained that the principle of redistribution was accepted by the Premier League as a principle, but that where the money came from was a more difficult discussion for their clubs. He stressed that the Hemmings family were committed to funding the club as long as they owned it and would only look to sell to the right person/people.

8. Topics Raised By PSC Members And Any Other Business

BA asked if there were any thoughts on holding a fans' forum. PR said this would be looked at for the World Cup break.

JB asked about the shuttle bus. It was explained this was costing money, but PR said the club would continue to provide the service at a loss.

BA asked about the return of the Playlist. BR said this would be looked at.

BA asked about the testimonial for Paul Huntington. PR said, at Paul's request, this would look to be next summer, with potential opponents already being sounded out.

JB asked about the options for a mural at Deepdale. BR said this was still something being looked at on the Barracks wall behind the AKTE, but the MOD needed to give permission.

BA asked about a thank you for those who helped with the season ticket campaign. PR said this would be sorted.

BA asked about future website/iFollow developments. HB explained that this was tied in with EFL negotiations over a new TV deal, which would start in the summer of 2024 and that the club would look to review in advance of this.

JS asked about cover for fans watching Central League games at Springfields. PR acknowledged there was no cover, but would look at whether any options might be available, but said there had not been any at Euxton either the previous season.

A discussion was had about the National Football Museum space at the ground and BA and PSC informed the club of their intentions to write to the chief executive with a view to starting a dialogue on its use.

JS raised the idea of building on the open day and potentially having a parent and U11 child coach trip on a designated away day, which PR said the club would look at the idea.

9. Date And Time Of Next Meeting

The next meeting date is yet to be scheduled.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.