



## **SUPPORT CHESTER**

P.O. BOX 3170 - CHESTER - CH4 8WP

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Time - Date: 1.45pm - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Place: Deva Stadium

Stephen Vaughan (SV) – Chester City Supporters' Trust Chair – Paul Red (PR)  
And Board member Tom Jones (TJ)

#### **1. Is the club being sold, yes or no?**

I don't know. I don't want to sell the club and no – no-one suitable has come forward with the right offer. Although never say never. If someone came up with an offer that was in my opinion in the best interests of the club I would consider it.

I'm currently in negotiations with another party who are interested in taking up an equity stake in the club – further details will be announced next week.

#### **2. If so who to?**

**Not applicable**

#### **3. If not, what happened to Sport-6? Are you therefore returning as Chairman and can you now expand on your future vision for the football club ?**

I have carried out my own investigations into Sport-6 and the people behind the business. I don't believe that Sport-6 will be able to finance the day-to-day running of CCFC following any purchase and will therefore not succeed in taking the club forward. The club is currently losing £40k per month.

Following the offer from Sport-6 I have seen no evidence of any money forthcoming and there is no contract on the table.

[www.supportchester.co.uk](http://www.supportchester.co.uk)

Chester City Supporters' Society Limited  
Registered as an Industrial and Provident Society with the  
Financial Services Authority Registered No. 29159R

Registered Office:  
Richmond Place, 127 Boughton, Chester, CH3 5BH



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If I don't return as Chairman of CCFC, an Executive Chairman will be nominated in due course.

#### **4. How will proposed stadium redevelopment be funded? And what are the timescales involved?**

I have engaged Robson Lloyd Consultancy Limited to undertake a viability study for the community sports development at the ground. SV then showed us a progress report from Robson Lloyd and arranged for a copy to be handed to us before we left the Deva Stadium that day. This was duly done. The report confirmed the following:

Meeting held with P. Kay (FA National Investment Manager) to discuss outline scheme.

Outline scheme will be completed by architect when next meeting is held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Local Authorities and the adjoining landowners will then be approached again to take matters forward.

Budget costs will be further discussed at this meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The finance for the development will come from the private sector, the football club, the Football Foundation and Lloyd Robson.

Chester City Football Club Limited will benefit from the scheme.

#### **5. Has the council seen a detailed business plan for the proposed redevelopment and what was their response?**

The council have not yet seen a detailed business plan but one is being prepared. Discussions entered into with the council have been met with a positive reaction to date.

No timescale has yet been confirmed for the development yet.



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**6. How do you intend to address the club's marketing, PR and community functions? There are major concerns amongst fans that these business functions are not run smoothly or professionally.**

These functions are currently led by Sarah Smith, Ian Duran and Bob Gray. The day-to-day running of the football club is left to the directors.

*When asked about goal setting and measurement of these functions the answer was the same, these functions are run day to day by the CCFC Board of Directors. SV indicated that he was in the process of selling his business and intended to take overall control of these functions personally once this had been completed.*

*PR suggested that the community programme was probably the best marketing and Public Relations tool the club possessed but it was not being run properly.*

**7. Do you have any plans therefore to bolster the people resource in these functions? These are business critical functions and if the club is to move forward and become a true community club these need to be addressed urgently.**

I have no plans to recruit any other PR, commercial or marketing professionals and I intend to oversee the commercial activities personally in the future.

**8. The Trust has offered help (on more than one occasion) to use its IPS status to find funding for community projects. Why, so far, have these offers not been taken up by the club?**

*PR confirmed that the Trust had been in touch with Pat Hendrie, Danny Jones and Mark Newman in the past without being able to gain any requirements from the club in order to help with funding applications, specifically for community projects.*

SV was not aware of who Pat Hendrie or Danny Jones actually were but asked the Trust to write to him personally to investigate a movement forward with this matter.



SV confirmed that he personally contributes £27k per annum to the Centre of Excellence.

### **9. How are you going to improve engagement of fans, community and local business**

Don't know – have tried everything I can think of to do this.

I've tried having a Trust member on the Board at the club and I am now open to any suggestions from the Trust or anyone else.

I am aware of a major sponsor of this club who has gone behind my back to take over at the club – this sort of behaviour is not good for the club or fans. I'm passionate about the club and I'm going nowhere.

### **10. Why can't the club budget correctly and cautiously, using an average gate figure of 2500 and 1st rd cup exits as the base budget? Explaining this to fans and managing expectations people may feel engaged and more likely to understand restrictions and the expectant moans and groans are nipped in the bud.**

The current team was put together on a basis of 3300 average attendances. Obviously when this figure was not attained wages had to be cut by offloading certain fringe players.

SV mentioned a number of players who had left including Ashley Westwood, a class player who he had to pay off, Dean Bennett whose loan deal is subsidised by the club, as is Sean Hessey's. Both Phil Bolland and Gavin Ward, who SV classed as a luxury in CCFC circumstances, had to be paid off.

We can budget on these numbers (2500) if you want Conference North football. I have enough money to keep this club afloat for the rest of my life, should I wish to do it.



**11. Why can't we use 1st team players to coach and take educational messages about a healthy lifestyle to schools. PFA Chairman Gordon Taylor told us that all professional footballers have a commitment to 6 hours a week community work written into their contracts as standard. Is this exercised by Chester City FC? If so what have they done? If not, why not?**

The club does not enforce this but I would disagree that they don't enter into the community. On a number of occasions the players have attended community projects including visiting schools, Countess of Chester Hospital and have opened a number of local bars.

PR was asked to provide proof that the six hour per week community work was in existence, although SV said he had no intention of enforcing it.

**12. Additional question not previously notified to Stephen Vaughan but was felt pertinent to ask at the discussion.**

**Do you, as a father, and given the personal abuse received during his last time at CCFC and the resulting effects, think it is in the club's best interests to possibly submit him to this abuse for a second time?**

I don't think you should have asked the question – my sons are here at Chester because they are good enough to be here. I believe Stephen is as good a centre midfield player as any at the club. I didn't pick him to play at England u17 level and I didn't make him captain of Liverpool reserves... SVJ could have gone to MK Dons or Macclesfield but he chose Chester as he is passionate about the club and wants to play for CCFC.

**The meeting followed with discussion on many topics which SV requested should remain out of the public domain.**

**The meeting ended just before the start of the game. PR and TJ thanked SV for his time and hospitality and confirmed that minutes of the meeting would be forwarded to him for agreement before being made public.**

I certify that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the meeting held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008 between Chester City Football Club and Chester City Supporters' Trust

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MINUTES OF MEETING

..... Signature

Time - Date: 1.45pm - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009

..... Print Name

STEPHEN VAUGHAN

..... Date

11.02.08

1. Is the club being sold, yes or no?

I don't know. I don't want to sell the club and no - no-one suitable has come forward with the right offer. Although never say never. If someone came up with an offer that was in my opinion in the best interests of the club I would consider it.

I'm currently in negotiations with another party, ISM, who are representing a venture capitalist business who are interested in taking up an equity stake in the club - further details will be announced next week. ISM is the same organisation that took an interest in CCFC last year.

2. If so who to?

Not applicable

3. If not, what happened to Sport-6? Are you therefore returning as Chairman and can you now expand on your future vision for the football club?

I have carried out my own investigations into Sport-6 and the people behind the business. I don't believe that Sport-6 will be able to finance the day-to-day running of CCFC following any purchase and will therefore not succeed in taking the club forward. The club is currently losing £40k per month.

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Chester City Supporters' Society Limited

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