

# Minutes: Committee Meeting 30/09/24 - 6pm

Present: MB, DW, JK, JP, MF, SD, TM, JH, KDx, Paddy  
Delayed: GR, SR

Meeting brought forward to 6pm in an attempt to conclude in time to watch the Saints vs Cherries match on the big TV in the clubhouse.

Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and continuing support as we stabilise the club and move forward. Jerry Hill was welcomed to the Committee as the new Youth Football representative.

## Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of our last meeting (02/09/24) were reviewed, approved and adopted. Carried forward action items were also reviewed and it was agreed to continue tracking carried forward actions as addenda to meeting minutes.

## An Introduction to the Youth Section

Jerry Hill joined the committee for the first time and gave a thoroughly absorbing introduction to youth football which was welcomed as a milestone event ... the youth section, despite being the future of the club, having been absent from committee in recent memory. Salient points from JH update included:

- 160 players across 4 leagues with 9 mixed (u16) teams and 2 girls teams with additional kids joining training sessions.
- Looking for more players to fill some mixed age group gaps and particularly keen to form more girls teams.
- Richard Hobbs departing as chairman end of October leaving committee of 3 with aspirations to beef up committee adding 9 additional roles.
- Lack of parent engagement & volunteers is an ongoing challenge.
- Similarly coach numbers & fatigue are a challenge with coaches generally following their kids through the age groups and fading away.
- First formal AGM to be held at the club 7.30pm 16th October and will hopefully be an opportunity to beat the drum for more support.
- Financially running on a hand to mouth basis with small (circa £3k) deficit in 2023/24 season.
  - Total revenue £41k primarily from player registration fee of £200.
  - Primary expense £31k to college for pitch hire (similar challenges to main club w/college).
  - Successful fund raising raffle at Brockstock .. keen to repeat in 2025.
  - Youth Football Festival model proven and has potential to generate more funds in future.
  - Would like to run a kit return event at club in conjunction with Halloween drinks on 31st Oct.
  - Happy to support the ball boy / girl program which is ready to go and being run by Henry.

## Actions

- JH: Provide content for JP to update Youth section of website.
- JH: Write program notes (400 words) for future home game.
- MB: Assist JH with drinks vouchers for kit return at Halloween.
- MP: Match day team to allow Youth player wearing their Brock kit free entry to matches.
- MB: Provide youth section with more notice (rolling monthly schedule ideally) of home games requiring ball boys / girls.

## Facilities Projects / Progress / Priorities

AB reported an interesting month on the facilities / projects front as we move from low hanging fruit to more substantial projects requiring budgets that will stretch our finances. Result is we need to make some trade offs and prioritise projects on the basis of safety / essential maintenance / biggest financial return.

After some discussion the short list (in order of readiness to proceed) emerged as:

- Ladies loo refurb (we are losing event bookings & goodwill)
- Cellar refurb (H&S concerns & we are cooling the village)
- Roofs of green keeper shed / badgers sett / ticket office (damage worsening / water ingress)

AB reported good news regarding the Highways tree notice - the tree in question is not the large oak we assumed but a much smaller one the other side of the fence that Westbeams will remove at a cost of £360 which was approved to proceed. Note that as part of his investigation AB is now in possession of the Land Registry map that confirms our boundary starts at the pavement (not fence) so we own all the trees bordering Grigg Lane.

Further good news from AB who reported Martin Rouse has confirmed his intention to sponsor work on floodlights. We were given 2 year certification so have some time to complete. MB expressed his interest in this project as a potential opportunity to upgrade lights and secure grant funding. Note that grant funding cannot be applied for until ground issues resolved and certified.

Cost of fixing Carl's roof was discussed and generally considered exorbitant so project not approved pending further review. Technical area replacement was also put on hold as not high priority at this time.

Car park remains longer term aspirational project. Suggestion that we could use "planings" when Grigg Lane is resurfaced remains a background conversation.

### Actions

- AB: Approved to engage Westbeams to remove troublesome tree.
- AB: Engage with Martin Rouse re report & proposed plan for floodlights.
- AB: Progress roof projects. Get local quote and take a view vs James Taylor.
- AB: Engage with the ladies re Loo specification and cost.
- GR: Review cellar project, cost and present plan.
- SR: Review Carl's roof proposal and have a chat with Carl.
- SR / AB: Look into repair / replace nets that protect Carl's house.
- MB: Bring AB up to speed on conversations re car park & "planings".

## Fireworks

KD reported all under control with stalls, food, tin bar etc.. progressing as discussed.

### Actions

- JP: Assist KD with advertising and large banners in village.
- TM / JH: Assist KD with advertising at school and youth football.
- TM / JH: Determine if youth section want to run a stall and organise with KD.
- Paddy: Bring his big lights.

## St Austell, What next?

MB reported positive meeting with St Austell regarding loan / contract. Agreement reached in principle to reset pricing in line with market which will generate desired savings. Needs to be finalised in a schedule / addenda to our contract. Once done MB will update members,

**Action** MB: Conclude with St Austell.

# Operational Updates

## Finance

JK reported continued positive trends in YoY trading although this is expected to slow as we enter the winter months. Key to increasing funds are major events, clubhouse bookings and good weather so home games happen at weekends.

Main account has a healthy balance but is pretty much spoken for by VAT, Energy and remaining ground maintenance bills. We have also started paying player wages in Sept which puts pressure on finances.

It was enlightening for the committee to understand the full extent of inherited bills & surprises ... to date we have cleared ~£10k in inherited expenses with ~£3-5k remaining. On track to be free of inherited items by end Dec (bar personal loan for which a plan is in place).

JK also reported progress with sponsor funds starting to come in. This money is being ring fenced until we build up sufficient funds to cover the major Brockstock costs to avoid the need to take on significant debt to run the 2025 event.

Now we are paying players monthly cash for ground improvement comes under pressure requiring prioritising as discussed in Facilities update.

Bottom line: we are trading above last year, making good progress paying inherited bills, hopeful of positive result re St Austell, making provision for Brockstock 25, progressing ground improvements within our means and essentially breaking even.

## Marketing

JP reported being up-to-date with marketing activities, Contact database is as complete as can be given what we inherited but still requires significant input. Opportunity to engage with youth section to improve data discussed.

JP will assist with advertising fireworks and updating youth section of website as agreed in other updates above.

## Membership

SD reported a quiet month for memberships. SLB members being set up. Making provision for life membership push which will be added to agenda next meeting. Potentially issuing life members with "special" cards.

## Sponsorship

MF reported all sponsors and car park space holders have been invoiced and responses are being received. To date it is a score draw as we have received 6 renewals and 6 have declined.

Some disquiet about 7 day terms on invoices (vs prior 30) so will leave another week before Hannah follows up remainder. SR will also offer assistance contacting / visiting the out of village outstanding sponsors.

New banners ready to go and will be produced in batches of 10.

DGM did not pay their deferred Brockstock invoice last week as promised and have now been invoiced for their 4 car park spaces. MF will use this opportunity to chase them once again and potentially seek F2F meeting.

## **H&S**

GR reported steady progress working our way through the list of low level items with no new concerns arising of note.

Our good friend Colin has agreed to undertake welding works to raise height of barrier at front of stand at little / no cost to club. Will need painting blue when complete. For those not aware Colin did the welding when the stand was built so this likely makes him our longest serving volunteer!

GR will take on cellar project as discussed in Facilities update.

## **Football**

MP not able to attend but key requirement is we now keep people off the pitch as ground softens.

**Action** JP: Provide keep off the grass signage.

## **Bar**

KD no major issues to raise. Fireworks & Halloween events on track. Couple of clubhouse bookings in the diary.

## **AOB**

It was agreed we will support the village Xmas fun evening. JP will work with youth section (JH / TM) to organise merchandise stall and kids game as in previous years.

Secretary was pleased to report that IA is now doing grass and lines.

It was agreed we need to organise a members meeting (plus report) to review the progress made to date, current status, next steps and seek guidance on project priorities,

**Action** MB / DW: organise membership update

Due to impending kick off of Saints game remaining AOB items were deferred to next meeting.

MB did buy a round of drinks ... bless him!

## **Carried Forward Actions**

- MP: updated squad photos for website
- MB: document high level club and football committee structures
- MF: Damngoodmedia deferred sponsorship
- MB: opening hours
- MB: talk to match day team re closing back gate and goal guards at HT
- MB: change front door lock
- MB: cleaning / kit washing / transport review
- MB: work with catering team on move of cooking to Sett
- MB: improved match day players menu
- MF / MP: consolidated view of sponsors
- MF: game plan for future car park vs ground sponsorship

**Meeting closed: 8pm**

**Next meeting: October 28th, 7pm**