**EGM Agenda**

**Wednesday 22nd June 2022, commencing at 7pm at the EMG Inspire Stadium Clubhouse**

1. Present (57)

 Committee – Jordan McManus, Will O’Donnell, Richard Macey, Richie Bethell, Gary Mixture, Clare Brewster, Adam Palmer, Andrew Palmer, David Creswell, William Creswell, Dave Ramsey-Smith, Jack Mckechnie, Darren Smith

1. Apologies

Apologies were sent in from the following Committee Members - Alan Jones, Jon Read,

Luke Owers and Gavin Brewer

1. Update on the SC since the last EGM, including progress with the Football Club from the Supporters’ Club Chairman

The following update was read out by Supporters’ Club Chairman Jordan McManus

*“Good evening everybody and thank you for your attendance at our first Extraordinary General Meeting in 49 days.*

*It has certainly been a busy period for the Supporters’ Club since the new committee was elected at the last EGM on 4th May 2022.*

*The committee has been working hard on several matters starting with Memberships for the 2022-23 season, as well as the introduction of Life Memberships, both of which are now available to purchase. There are some added benefits that our Membership and Fundraising teams have worked on and further benefits that will be announced soon. Thank you to those businesses who continue to support us and to those that have joined us ahead of the upcoming season, as well as to our Fundraising and Commercial team that have been working on this and continue to engage with local businesses.*

*While there is uncertainty around the future ownership of the Football Club, we have currently frozen our providing of funds to the Football Club. We are in the process of consulting with those who have contributed to campaigns, such as the 12th Man Fund, whose money we are currently holding, as we are considering the future purposes of these funds and for all future fundraising schemes. We will provide the membership with further news as soon as possible.*

*Following on from fundraising, the Supporter’s Club recently announced a very substantial two-year deal with Gavin Smith to sponsor the Away Coach Travel. This will allow us to ensure that travel to away fixtures remains affordable to our supporters at a time when budgets are tighter and fuel prices are skyrocketing. The league fixtures are due to be released on 6th July, so work will commence on arranging the coaches following this date. Our thanks to Gavin for his excellent support which I’m sure will be equally appreciated by all supporters, so in return please ensure you support the away coaches where you can over the course of next season.*

*Before moving onto our discussions with the Football Club, I would like to thank the committee for their excellent work so far, a lot of which goes unnoticed. Our Media Team have been incredibly busy with all the recent announcements and working on the release of the new Memberships.*

*Moving on, our Board Representatives and Secretary have also been kept busy over the period since the last EGM, in which we have had two meetings with Steve Shore and other Football Club representatives.*

*The first meeting, on 16th May 2022, also included Robbie Simpson and it was the first time we were made aware by Steve Shore that he had been approached by two parties interested in taking over the club. This was stated as the reason for no progress in terms of electing new directors following on from one of the main action points that came out of the Clarets4Change meeting on 5th April 2022.*

*Steve also used this meeting to explain where he also felt the club needed staffing off the field, mentioning the General Manager, a Facilities/Operations Manager and a Commercial Manager, amongst others. Again, for all this discussion it was all pending on the ownership situation.*

*Further discussions went on about a youth and academy structure, showing how this would feed into the Reserve and First Teams.*

*After the ownership news, the most significant item to come out of the meeting was the Supporters’ Club being provided with the opportunity to lead the discussions with the Football Club regarding the pricing for Season Ticket and individual Match Tickets. What we thought would have been a ‘good news story’ for the Football Club with the pricing agreed with Steve within five days, an impending release of the season tickets and the feeling they offered good value for money, the issues around the time the season tickets took to be released and the club being closed on the first working day after their eventual release were nothing short of an own goal.*

*On Saturday 28th May, Steve contacted us to arrange the next meeting, a time in which the season tickets hadn’t been released despite promises for them to be released earlier in that week. We used this opportunity to request updates on season tickets, of which we were told that the success of the Academy Team earlier that week had caused the delay in releasing the season tickets.*

*Following other minor discussions over that weekend, in which the next meeting was fixed for 8th June, we emailed him on Monday 30th May to express our concerns that the uncertainty around the ownership of the club was jeopardising plans for next season and that if the Football Club continued to delay on the big issues, such as the ownership, season tickets and the appointment of directors, the Supporters’ Club would consider more drastic options with the Supporters’ Club membership, without specifically mentioning the calling of this EGM.*

*The 8th June meeting was attended by Steve, Mickey Spillane and Adam Drew. In this meeting we got an apology from Steve for the season ticket debacle and the poor communication around it, in which we subsequently released a statement. We also had updates on the two interested parties, as per the minutes, and off the field staffing updates though not including directors due to the continuing ownership situation. A General Manager and an Operations Manager had been appointed at this point.*

*I would like to think that the Football Club are aware that the Supporters’ Club are not to be taken for granted and that we will now call out any missed deadlines or broken promises, such as our recent statement on season tickets. Whether this improves the Football Club’s communications in future is still to be seen.*

*Since the last meeting, the Board Representatives have held talks with Party 1, as named in the 8th June minutes, who has since been revealed as Spencer Gore. It was a very productive one-hour meeting that took place over Zoom in which Spencer gave us his background, his prior involvements with Chelmsford City and a timeline of his dealings with the current ownership regarding his interest in the club, a lot of which he has since put into his Soapbox post. We left the meeting feeling very encouraged about his plans for the club and the areas of the club he wants to see improved.*

*Spencer had an initial discussion with Party 2 on 21st June, which was described as a good meeting by him in a discussion I had with him this morning.*

*I have also opened talks with Dan Watkins with an email discussion commencing earlier this week and we will arrange to meet him, via video conferencing, in due course.*

*The Supporters’ Club will continue to talk to all relevant parties and will provide updates to the supporters, whenever we can, without breaching anything discussed with us in confidence. We very much hope that the Football Club’s future will be brighter soon, but we accept that there is still a way to go yet”.*

1. Open discussion about the FC’s immediate future & agreed future approach to be taken by the SC
* Topics of conversation and questions from the floor were as follows – Discussion on the opinion of Dan Watkins, questions regarding Spencer Gore and the meeting with Supporters’ Club reps. Views of the Supporters’ Club reps who have attended meetings with the club and there were questions on the thoughts of Robbie Simpson.
* The overall feeling is that those in attendance want the Betsi element of the ownership gone.
* It was decided that dependant on the outcome of a vote, the Supporters’ Club were to issue a statement of no confidence in the Betsi element of the ownership.
* Vote of no confidence took place.
* Unanimously voted in favour of the statement of no confidence to be sent to Steve Shore and John Holmes.
* Supporters’ Club to now draft statement and to send out to Betsi.
* Supporters’ Club Committee then asked members to withhold buying Season Tickets until the future of the club is more certain. At the moment only Season Ticket sales to be boycotted. If necessary other funding streams can be looked at to be targeted by boycotting.
1. AOB (including 2022 AGM)
* AGM in August – Date to be decided
* Fund Freeze – 12th Man contributors to be emailed asking their thoughts on the fund being repurposed and get a consensus on how they would like their contributions to be used
* John Pitts asked about Kit Sponsorship. Supporters’ Club are still waiting to hear back from the club regarding the split in income. Anything less than 50-50 and the Football Club would be expected to run the scheme.
* Tim Gallagher thanked the committee for their work in representing the fanbase.