



Whitehaven Independent Supporters Trust

9th June 2011

JJ McKeown Bar, Recreation Ground

1. Attendees –Vikki Chappell, Ian Stephenson, Paul Blacklock, Jonathan Chappell, Dave Elthorpe,

Apologies – Lee Scott, Stephen McGrady, Andrew Ross

Meeting to discuss Ian's letter to the Whitehaven News dated 26th May 2011 and any other issues board members may have. Meeting chaired by Jonathan Chappell

Dave agreed with Ian's letter however not the fact that it was signed from the Trust. Dave feels Ian should perhaps step down from Chairman Position in order for the Trust to move forward. Dave expressed Mrs Raaz does not want to work with the Trust and this is not a good situation to be in. Paul highlighted that the Trust has not had any communications from the club to say that they will not work with the Trust.

Jonathan confirms that the Trust is a business and in effect we are employees that have a job to do. In our everyday roles at work we may not always like something but we do the job. We all do and will disagree at times but we need to work through it.

2. Jonathan read out Ian's letter that was published in the Whitehaven News on the 26th May.

Ian's response

- *Ian explained that he had planned to explain each paragraph however felt that this was not required – all agreed*
- *Ian had been to see the plans and had several discussions at the time with other Trust members*
- *Ian also discussed the plans and viewing window with other Trust members over the weekend*
- *Once Ian had thought about it more he felt that something was amiss as the plans had been drawn up a couple of months ago. Why the short viewing period at such short notice.*
- *Ian then took the view from talking to others and being a local resident that he needed to voice his opinions*
- *Ian is aware that Mrs Raaz opposes the letter along with members of the Trust however there are members of the Trust that support the letter.*

Paul highlighted that the Whitehaven news didn't fully explain that the plans were available to view on the internet. Perhaps if they have mentioned this the letter may never have been required. Plans have been displayed at the club and again at the Civic Hall since Ian's letter.

Jonathan confirmed that he believed the letter was written in good faith as Ian had spoken to several Trust members. Ian has now apologised both publically and to the board members.

Paul has researched several articles that have appeared in recent months in the Whitehaven News with regards to the Trust. Lots of good news stories with quotes and statements from Ian on behalf of the Trust that Trust members were unaware of before publication. This has never been an issue previously. Paul also has several threads from the Haven Fans Forum that support the letter. There are a couple that criticize the stadium itself.

Vikki expressed that she did not appreciate finding out there was an issue within the Trust from a friend on the Saturday morning asking what was going on. Vikki felt that if any board members had an issue then an emergency meeting should have been called as opposed to sounding off to others in public. This was very unprofessional and not the correct way to go about things.

Jonathan summarised that there was nothing in the letter anyone was against, perhaps in the future an email could be circulated so members can confirm they are happy for the publications.

Dave expressed that he was concerned the members of the board were not present and would not work with Ian. He also expressed that Andrew was upset as he had been put in an awkward position between the Trust and Ms Raaz.

3. Opportunity to voice issues and concerns.

The board members that had expressed issues and concerns were not present at the meeting and therefore this could not be discussed. Lee apologised to Jonathan for not attending and expressed that he had concerns. Jonathan asked Lee to put his concerns in writing and he would raise at the meeting – at this point Jonathan had not had anything from Lee.

4 – AOB

Several times we have asked Andrew to find out from Mrs Raaz what the club want from us with regards to help. Andrew has spoken to Mrs Raaz and has so far not come back to us with anything. We are unaware if the BOD are aware of this.

All agreed that we need to move on and work very hard to move the Trust on and prove that the Trust can work.

Jonathan is to feed back to Laura Harrison the outcome of tonight's meeting and take advise on the next actions of the Trust.

Next meeting 16th June at JJ McKeown Bar

