



Name of Meeting	Newcastle United Supporters Trust – 1892 Pledge Scheme Committee Meeting
Meeting Venue	Online via Teams
Date & Time of Meeting	16 th December 2021: 19:00

Attendees	<p>Greg Tomlinson (GT) (NUST Board Chair)</p> <p>Charlotte Robson (CR) (NUST Board)</p> <p>Alex Hurst (AH) (NUST Board and 1892 Pledge Scheme Administrator)</p> <p>George Caulkin (GC) (Pledge Guardian)</p> <p>Ian Mearns (IM) (Pledge Guardian)</p> <p>Warren Barton (WB) (Pledge Guardian)</p>
Not Present / Apologies	<p>Norman Watson (NUST Secretary)</p> <p>Lee Humble (Pledge Guardian)</p>

Item	Notes	Actions
1	<p>GT welcomed all to the meeting, and handed over to AH as 1892 Pledge Scheme Administrator.</p> <p>AH explained this meeting is to discuss the future of the 1892 Pledge Scheme. AH stated he had sent all attendees basic information on the Scheme, in terms of finances of the Scheme and you have all indicated you received and read. Updated figures as of today are cash in bank is £190,514 and the figure pledged by the public is £200,510. The difference between the public pledged total and cash at bank is that we are still waiting for December payments from the GoCardless payment portal and Stripe, and the cash at bank is minus the fees those two payment merchants charge us for collecting the money. This month 98% of pledges for the month will have been collected. 1,315 people have pledged in December. There have been cancellations since these pledges have come in and cancellations per month are around 25-30% of people cancelling since the takeover. The figure collected in December so far is £10,003. AH explained that lots of members have been in touch with him and the wider Trust Board wanting to know if they can cancel their pledge. Whatever is decide at this meeting will be put to the Trust Board at a meeting held on the future of the Scheme on the 21.12.21. Whatever the Trust Board decides will be put to members.</p> <p>AH outlined he believed there are three options to choose from:</p> <p>1) Continue to keep the Scheme live and collecting payments. To do this we would need an argument presented to members about why this is necessary now the ownership has changed</p>	Trust Board to meet on 21.12.21.



2) End the collection of incoming pledges but hang onto the money raised until a further time that you can decide if the Scheme needs to be reopened or the money donated to charity

3) Vote to close the Scheme as soon as possible and begin the process of selecting paying local charitable organisations after January 2022.

GC: My opinion is that in the light of the takeover and who has takeover the club we should end the Scheme at this point. If I thought there was an end-goal for the money that would involve a purchase of the club I would be interested in continuing but with the plans of new owners and their commitment to fan engagement, as well as the emergence of the Crouch report and the Fan-led review and potential golden share coming in, I think that amount of money could do good in the local community. I don't think the Scheme is necessary in the way we envisaged when it was launched, but that's a positive not a negative.

WB: With the new ownership engaging with fans and listening to fans we should end the Scheme and stop asking for money and give money to charity in the new year. The situation with the previous owner is gone and now is the right time to give this money to charity. We can be proud of what we've done and all those who've raised the money can also be proud. It's a lot of money that will do a lot of good.

IM: I hold the same view we should end the Scheme and donate the money to charity. The money should go to charity as soon as possible and not stay in the Trust as we are ending the Scheme. We need to work out where the money is going in the new year assuming the Board and members agree with our decision.

AH: Thank you – LH indicated to me that in his absence from the meeting he would also like to end the Scheme so we have all four Guardians in agreement that they would like to end the Pledge Scheme as soon as possible.

The Trust Board will meet next week to discuss this decision and vote on ratifying it or not. We will let you all know of their decision and what happens next. Either way we will communicate to members before the end of the year on what is decided or if we need their view on ending the Scheme.

Trust Board Members on the 1892 Pledge Scheme Committee (GT and CR) abstained from voting, noting they will vote when the recommendation of this committee is taken to the Trust Board.