**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday 1st October 2020**

**Held via Zoom Video Conference at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Peter Maguire (Chairman), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Frank Thompson,

Brian Hammond, George McKitterick, Gordon Mason, Helen Pollard, Joe Partridge, Keith Simpson, Kevin McKitterick, Kevin Oliver, Kieran Downey, Matthew Malton, John Topping - DFA, Mick Grant.

**Apologies:** Dave Copeland, Dani Maguire-Myers, Emma Collins, Kevin Gibson, Malcolm Langley,

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm which was called by League Secretary Kevin Harrison to address the amount of calls, correspondence and references from posts on social media received by him in relation to fixtures effected by Covid-19.

Kevin informed the meeting that the volume of Covid-19 calls made to him were becoming constant and taking over his full time and he was reaching breaking point. He had previously spoken to Peter who has agreed to take on any Covid related enquiries to allow Kevin to concentrate on other league work and referee allocations. Kevin will notify all clubs of this. A proposal from both Peter and Kevin to put together a ‘Wearside League Covid Policy’ taken from the FA Covid guidance, was agreed by the committee. This would include ‘should a team find it necessary to cancel a game due to any member being affected by COVID-19, that team’s fixtures will be cancelled for the next 14 days from the date the league is notified.’

Peter reported that the league is doing the best it can following guidelines from the Local Authority and the FA.

Kevin reported that a number of clubs had expressed concern that the restriction of not allowing supporters into their grounds was affecting club finances and some were seriously considering folding. It was suggested that the league try and put a package together to help with the cost of officials i.e to possibly have only one official instead of three on First division fixtures. It was also suggested that consideration be taken with regards to clubs possibly playing each other once to also avoid a backlog of fixtures towards the end of the season. It was also proposed that the league write to Durham FA to request the cancelling of the County Cup competitions. Another proposal was for the league to write to the FA and ask for financial support for the Wearside League. One club, Durham City FC Reserves, have submitted a letter informing that they will be resigning from league with immediate effect. Kevin proposed that the league accept their resignation, and this was agreed by the committee. Peter reported that a new club, Durham Sporting Club, have applied to take over the fixtures of the departing club and this was also approved by the committee.

A follow up meeting with officials from the FA, Local Authorities and Public Health England together with Officials of Leagues is being held on Wednesday 7th October, at which possible relaxation to conditions imposed regarding Covid restrictions will hopefully be considered. The League will strongly put their case forward. A decision on what the league does next will depend on the outcome of these discussions.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.48pm.