**WEARSIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 15th July 2024**

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

**Present:** Helen Pollard (Chair), Kevin Harrison (Secretary), Frank Thompson,

Dave Copeland, Gareth Coxon, Ian Stewart, Jeff Spooner, Joe Partridge,

Keith Simpson, Marshall Lawson, Michael Bloomer, Sean Rooks,

Steve Futers, Mick Grant.

**Apologies;** Dani Maguire, Kevin McKitterick.

League Secretary Kevin Harrison opened the meeting at 7.00pm, informing that, following the resignation of both Consett AFC Juniors and Birtley Town Development from the 1st Division, and that he had been made aware of at least 2 other teams who are struggling for players/manager and have asked for time to try and resolve the situation, this meeting had been called at short notice to discuss the way forward with resignations and potential impending resignations affecting the League’s constitution. It does not affect the Premier Division.

Considering the above, Kevin has put together the following proposals for consideration. Subject to approval, these options would then need to be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Division clubs at a Special General Meeting to vote upon.;

**Option 1 -** If no more resignations - carry on with the current situation of 1st Div -12 clubs,

2nd Div -11 clubs, 3rd Div -11 clubs.

**Option 2. -** Have 18 clubs in 1st division and 16 clubs in 2nd division.

**Option 3 -** Have 17 clubs in each 1st & 2nd division.

If change were to be made, **Option 2** would be the preferred option. It would be more beneficial if the league started with an even number in each division, and with the added benefit that the 1st division increases the number of teams with floodlights, also meaning a couple less games for the 2nd division.

If the clubs do choose to change, the league will if needed fully pay for the hire of the ground for midweek games at Sunderland hubs through the Autumn/Winter periods to help with any catch ups, with the home team only responsible for refs fees.

Only one cup competition would be played – ‘Clem Smith Bowl’

Relegated clubs would have to be reprieved in accordance with league rules.

Promotions would be based on merit from last season. In the event that teams did not want to be reprieved or promoted the management committee will consult with other clubs to meet requirements.

Kevin will contact John Topping at Durham FA to see if the vote on the options can be decided by club email in accordance with FA Rules. Premier clubs are entitled to vote if they so wish.

**A.O.B.**

* **Fines Update.**

Sean informed the meeting that both Consett AFC Juniors and Birtley Town Development had paid their fine for folding following the AGM.

Being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.25pm.