

Wendy Bagnall,  
Brian Cahill,  
Shannon Conneely,  
Paul Leech,  
Reuben McManus,  
Derek Meehan,  
Robert Meehan,  
Ruth Meehan,  
Hubert Powderly,  
Adrian O'Reilly,  
Raymond Shiels, and  
Robert Wogan.  
c/o Torro United AFC,  
Kilberry,  
Navan,  
County Meath.

Point of contact: Robert Meehan,  
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Navan,  
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16/01/2025

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The Secretary  
Torro United AFC,  
Kilberry,  
Navan,  
County Meath,  
C15 A9F8.

Dear Secretary,

We, the undersigned, are giving notice of our right under the FAI Governance Handbook 2024, Section 1. Constitution to call an Emergency General Meeting (EGM). Under Section 14 Notice of General Meetings, the club Secretary is required to call an EGM for the passing of a special resolution (In this case a motion of no confidence in the current Torro United AFC Committee and declaration of the recent 'AGM' as being invalid) by not less than 21 days' notice, and in the case of any other EGM, by not less than 7 days' notice for the following reasons.

We are proposing motions of no confidence (see following) in the,

1. Torro United AFC Chairman
2. Torro United AFC Vice Chairman
3. Torro United AFC Secretary
4. Torro United AFC Treasurer
5. Torro United AFC Registrar

## **Motion of No Legitimacy to recent 'Annual General Meeting' ('AGM')**

We are also proposing a motion to declare the conclusion of the 'Annual General Meeting' (hereafter referred to as the 'AGM') which was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 as null and void, despite our assertion at the start of said meeting that it should not continue as it was invalid and untenable, for all of the following reasons;

1. The notice of the 'AGM' was inadequate and did not comply with the Torro United AFC Constitution or the FAI Governance Handbook 2024 as,
  - a. Considerable numbers of club members with voting rights were not informed in writing beforehand that the 'AGM' was taking place.
  - b. No information or agenda was given prior to the 'AGM'; nor was any notification of amendments or proposals circulated in advance of the meeting.
  - c. Only 3 days' notice (27<sup>th</sup> of December to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024, during Christmas holidays) was served as notice for the members that were notified in writing to complete motions and proposals for the 'AGM' (we deem this wholly inadequate).
  - d. No list of incoming club officers was published prior to the 'AGM'.
2. The 'AGM' was not conducted in an appropriate manner.
  - a. Attendees, including the Club President, were refused the opportunity to discuss any of the agenda items in detail.
  - b. The Chairman directed anyone who gave a conflicting view to the door.
  - c. There were objections raised against the Chairman's, Secretary's and Financial Reports, and none of these objections were debated and the Chairman simply got a proposer and seconder before moving on without a vote or show of hands.
  - d. No election of club officers took place.
    - i. During all (Supposed) officer elections objections were ignored, and positions were proposed and seconded before moving on without an election or show of hands taking place or agreed.
  - e. The Chairman refused to allow AOB or allow important issues to be put on an agenda for a future meeting.
3. No financial report was published for the previous year's AGM (that of 2023).
  - a. Requests that the Finance Report from 2023 be published and ratified before the 2024 Finance Report was ratified at this 'AGM' were refused.
  - b. The Finance Report for 2024 lacked detail and clarity.
  - c. Persons were prevented from debating and asking questions regarding the Finance Report.
4. A proposal was lodged by a Club Member on conflict of interest in the required time (i.e. after 27<sup>th</sup> December and before 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024), and in the correct manner. This was dismissed by an email to that Club Member as not being 'acceptable', and the member was informed in the email that the motion would not be brought forward to the AGM for discussion / vote, and was deemed by the committee as being unacceptable, and was therefore just dismissed. This can in no way be deemed good governance.

## **Background**

Over some period of time the ethos and standards that define Torro United AFC as a football club have been eroded. Currently the club is being run essentially by 5 individuals (sharing more than a dozen roles) who are consistently acting in their own self-interest, making decisions when there are clear conflict of interest and not acting impartially in ways consistent with FAI Governance and Guidelines.

More importantly there have been incidents and examples of a complete breakdown in what would be deemed as respectful behaviour towards volunteers, coaches, players, and parents where anyone expressing a difference of opinion to the current Torro United AFC Committee is targeted, black-listed, and / or has had their membership illegally voided or sanctions imposed upon them, without investigation or appropriate due process being followed. This has led to almost thirty volunteers, coaches and committee members either being removed or resigning from their position over the last two years. This now means that the club, rather than be seen as a standard bearer as regards how a club conducts their business, to one where there is a reluctance for anyone to become involved in the club and there is also at the moment a significant reduction in numbers of player registrations for the coming season from both the adult and underage sections.

Torro United AFC has recently been awarded the FAI Club Mark One Star Club status.

But the club has no Director of Football, no 'A' licence coach, no UEFA 'B' licence coach. One coach has a C licence, while in the last season alone one 'A', one 'B' and 2 'C' licence coaches have all left the club, for a variety of reasons as outlined above.

### **Motions of No Confidence - Detail**

#### **Chairman & Vice Chairman**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman due to the lack of integrity impartiality and removal of volunteers without due process including the previously-elected Secretary. In particular the current Chairman and Vice Chairman have failed to carry out duties as per

1. The FAI Governance Handbook 2024.
  - a. Section 1 General provisions
  - b. Section 4 Electoral code
  - c. Section 7 Disciplinary Regulations – Removal of Secretary and coaches without due process being followed.
  - d. FIFA code of ethics
    - Definition of conflict of interest
    - Fraudulent allegations
  - e. FAI Child Welfare Regulations

***“Members of the Committee shall declare any conflicts of interest at the beginning of each meeting and shall remove themselves from the meeting when the Agenda Item giving rise to the conflict is being discussed and advice or recommendations being agreed.”***

- f. Regulation 40. Composition of The Disciplinary Bodies, Section 4

***“Members of the Disciplinary Pool shall be required to provide details of their football and professional background and a list of football interests and/or any conflicts of interest they may have.”***

2. The FAI Club Management Guide 2024
  - a. Section 2 Governance & Administration
  - b. Role and Responsibilities of Committee Members
3. The Torro United AFC Club Constitution

#### **Secretary**

The previously-elected Secretary was illegally removed without due process as per Section 7 Disciplinary Regulations of the FAI Governance Handbook 2024. The current Secretary was not elected constitutionally as per the FAI Club Management Guide 2024.

The Secretary's poor performance and continued inability and refusal to reply to correspondence in an appropriate manner and period which has resulted in complaints to statutory bodies. In particular the current Secretary failed to carry out duties as per,

1. The Data Protection Act 2018 as Torro United AFC Data Manager – Security of sensitive data.
2. The FAI Governance Handbook 2024.
  - a. Section 1 General provisions,
    - i. 1.2 Principles and obligations – Failure to keep minutes.
    - ii. 1.4.7 Conflict of Interest
  - b. Section 7 Disciplinary Regulations – Failure to keep records.
3. The FAI Club Management Guide 2024
  - a. Section 2 Governance & Administration
  - b. Role and Responsibilities of Committee Members
4. The FIFA Code of Ethics Annex 2 – Definition of conflict of interest
5. The Torro United AFC Club Constitution

#### **Treasurer**

The current Treasurer for the failure to ensure that club finances are managed in a transparent manner as outlined by FAI Governance processes. In particular, the current Treasurer failed to carry out duties as per,

1. The Companies Act 2014
2. The FAI Governance Handbook 2024.
  - a. Section 1 General Provisions,
    - i. Principles of the Association – 10. Keeping Accounts
3. The FAI Club Management Guide 2024
  - a. Section 2 Governance & Administration
  - b. Role and Responsibilities of Committee Members
  - c. Constitution – Finance
4. The FIFA Code of Ethics Annex 2 – Definition of conflict of interest
5. The Torro United AFC Club Constitution

#### **Registrar**

The club Registrar for failing to ensure that players and coaches are properly registered. The continued policy of illegally voiding memberships, preventing personnel joining the club by closing off and returning memberships to prevent persons being eligible to vote in an AGM. In particular, the current Club Registrar has failed to carry out duties as per,

1. The FAI Governance Handbook 2024.
  - a. Section 1 General provisions,
    - ii. Principles of the Association
  - b. Regulation 6. Rulebooks & list of membership
2. The FAI Club Management Guide 2024
  - a. Section 2 Governance & Administration
  - b. Role and Responsibilities of Committee Members
  - c. Constitution – Membership

***Registered members shall be deemed to continue as members from year to year on payment of the requisite annual membership fee until –***

- a. They resign from the club,***

- b. Their membership is terminated by the Management Committee**
- c. Any member whose membership fee remains outstanding for more than three months from the date on which it is due and who has been given one month's notice in writing, shall be deemed to have resigned from the club but may, at the discretion of the Management Committee be re-admitted to membership on payment of the outstanding fee.**

- 3. The FIFA Code of Ethics Annex 2 – Definition of conflict of interest
- 4. The Torro United AFC Club Constitution

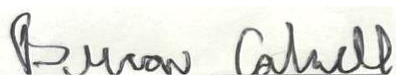
We propose the following to replace the current five-person Torro United AFC Committee,

Wendy Bagnall,  
 Kevin Boland  
 Brian Cahill,  
 Nicola McAuley,  
 Aileen McMahon,  
 Reuben McManus,  
 Derek Meehan,  
 Robert Meehan,  
 Adrian O'Reilly, and  
 Raymond Shiels.

We would request that the Torro United AFC Legal Advisor attend at the upcoming EGM and also that an independent mediator from the FAI, NEFL and NERL be appointed to oversee the EGM, as we have no confidence or trust that the current members of the Torro United AFC Committee will conduct the EGM correctly as per FAI Governance processes.

We would like to appeal to the current Torro United AFC committee to act in good conscience and resign from their current positions with immediate effect, thus preventing an EGM that can only be damaging to personal reputations and the reputation of Torro United AFC. A majority of the players, coaches and parents have lost faith in the current Torro United AFC Committee. Exercising discretion and good judgement will allow a viable alternative to act as a full and co-operative committee for all Club Members, prevent further erosion of trust, and allow the healing process to commence.

Yours in Sport



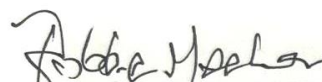
Brian Cahill (Senior Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Coach)



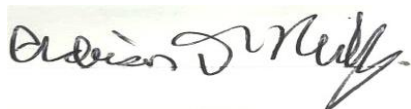
Paul Leech (Current Coach)



Derek Meehan (Senior Women's 1<sup>st</sup> Team Coach & current parent)



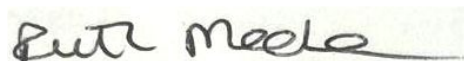
Robert Meehan (Former player, PRO & current member)



Adrian O'Reilly (Former Coach & current parent)




Raymond Shiels (Former Coach & current parent)



Ruth Meehan (Current parent)

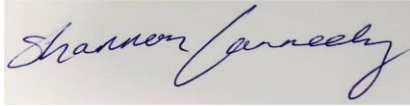


Reuben McManus (Former Coach & current parent)



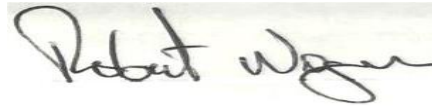
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Hugh Powderly (Club President)



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Shannon Conneely, (Senior Women's Team player)  
**e-signatures**



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Robert Wogan (Former Men's First Team Manager)



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Wendy Bagnal (Former Secretary, Coach & parent)

cc. Football Association of Ireland, North East Football League, Northeastern Regional League