

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 9th December 2015 at 6.00 pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PRESENT

Councillors H Rhodes (Chair), M Boylan, I Fletcher, J Francis, M Hosken, C Mason, S J Reynolds, J Seymour and C Smith (substitute for G Cook)

Officers in attendance: A Reah (Building Control Team Leader), E Griffin (Solicitor), T Street (Solicitor) and P Smith (Democratic Services Team Leader)

LC-21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor G Cook

LC-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC-23 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC-24 SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 AND FIRE SAFETY & PLACES OF SPORT ACT 1987 – REGULATED STAND CERTIFICATES FOR AFC TELFORD UTD FOOTBALL STADIUM

Mr L Carter (Managing Director - AFC Telford Utd FC) was present for this item.

The Building Control Team Leader presented a report which provided Members with an update of events since the last meeting on 14 October 2015, when the Committee agreed to issue temporary Regulated Stand Certificates for three specified stands at the AFC Telford Utd Football Stadium, subject to conditions (minute LC-20). A copy of the report considered at the 14 October meeting was appended to the report for information.

The Football Club had been working closely with the Sports Safety Group and Council officers to address the issues that had been identified. The position with regard to the three conditions imposed at the last meeting was that:

- The seating and access in front of the desks on Row K had been removed and a temporary netting barrier installed, so this condition had been complied with;
- A risk assessment of the barriers had been completed and had recommended the testing of a number of barriers. The testing was due to take place on 11 January 2016.

- Work had been done to the vomitory walls which had addressed the original concerns, so this condition had been complied with.

The Council had received confirmation that the new fire alarm system had been ordered. Installation would start on 4 January 2016, with a completion date in late January/early February.

A match day inspection had been carried out by the Sports Safety Group on 20 November 2015, when some safety issues were highlighted. However, it was clarified that the number of loudhailers available at the ground was compliant with the requirements of the independent Fire risk assessment. A further match day inspection on 5 December 2015 found that steps had been taken to remedy outstanding issues such as providing extra keys to ensure that doors were locked, liaising with the adjacent Whitehouse Hotel and further work at the snack bar. A further meeting of the Safety Group was scheduled to take place in January/February when the alarm system work should be completed.

It was recommended that the Regulated Stands Certificates be granted for a further period of 70 days to enable the fire alarm system to be installed and for the barrier testing and any consequent remedial work to be carried out.

Mr L Carter, on behalf of AFC Telford Utd, was invited to address the Committee and answer questions. He stated that the Club had an exemplary safety record over many years. He circulated a pack of information to Members which included the actions taken after the recent inspections, recent event safety briefings and match day inspection reports. All stewards and staff were trained to NVQ Level 2. He also provided further information about the response that had been made to comply with the three conditions attached to the temporary Certificates. In relation to the barriers, none had been identified as in a falling over state but there were some minor defects identified in around 10 barriers within the ground. Load-testing on these barriers would be carried out on 11 January 2016, and any remedial testing required would be done within 28 days of the results being received. With regard to the vomitory walls, a survey had been undertaken and had identified some cracking of cosmetic render which had now been repaired. There were no structural faults. In terms of the fire alarm system, he assured Members that the current system and fire safety measures worked perfectly. The only identified risk was in the event of a major power outage there was a minimal risk that the notification of detection would not work. Notwithstanding this, a replacement system had been ordered and the work was likely to take at least 9 weeks. It had taken a bit of time to sort out the electrical routing etc due to lack of available documentation, and this had delayed the ordering of the alarm system.

During the ensuing discussion, there was some disappointment that not all the identified work had been completed, but, overall, Members were satisfied that the Club had done a lot to address the issues that had been raised, and that there were clear timescales for the remaining work to be completed. Reassurances had been provided that the necessary additional safety measures were in place. A question was asked about whether the Sports Safety Group would be making another site inspection visit within the next 70 days. It was confirmed that they would be, and the Club invited members of the Committee to attend the visit so that they could see for

themselves the work that had been done, and the safety procedures in place for a match-day.

RESOLVED (unanimously) –

- (a) that the Safety Certificate applications for the Regulated Stands be granted for a further period of 70 days from 9 December 2015 to enable the fire alarm system that had been ordered to be installed, and for the barrier testing to be carried out and for rectification of any issues that arise from that testing;**

- (b) that the applications come back to the Committee at a meeting on 4 February 2016, and that a site inspection visit (in conjunction with the Sports Safety Group) be held on 23 January 2016.**

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Chairman:

Date: