

LICENSING COMMITTEE

A

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 6.00pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

Present: Councillors C R Turley (Chair), I T W Fletcher, J A Francis, M B Hosken, C N Mason, J M Seymour, C F Smith and M J Smith.

In Attendance: K Harris (Group Manager - Development Team), C Girvan (Legal Advisor) and J Clarke (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer).

Also in Attendance: A Price (Director AFC Telford Utd).

LC-06 Apologies for Absence

Councillors M Boylan and L A Murray.

LC-07 Declarations of Interest

None.

LC-08 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 16 January 2018 be signed by the Chair.

LC-09 The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 and Fire and Places of Sport Act 1987 – Regulated Stands Certificates for AFC Telford Utd Football Stadium

Mr K Harris presented the report on the application for Regulated Stand Certificates for the David Hutchison (north), University of Wolverhampton (west) and Frank Nagington (south) stands at AFC Telford for the 12 month period 14 April 2018 to 14 April 2019. He introduced Mr A Price to Members who was a Director at AFC Telford United who would be able to answer questions if Members needed clarification on any points. Individual certificates expired at various points throughout the year most of which ran for 12 month periods with the exception of the escape lighting battery test which was undertaken every six months and the electrical installation which was undertaken every three years. Key areas to note were the structural safety assessment which was commissioned on 22nd March 2017. This contained 11 recommendations in a programme of works to be undertaken by March 2020. The load testing, which included the box section outside the Sponsors Box, had now passed the test and a further re-test was due in April 2018. Works to the fire alarm system had been undertaken and tested and AFC Telford Utd were awaiting receipt of the certificates. A thorough fire risk assessment inspection had been undertaken and a number of issues had been identified and would need to be completed within one week, one month and three months and the Fire Safety Group would continue to monitor the ongoing work together with the Match Day Inspection Safety Group. The electrical installation testing process was an all-encompassing

programme and Mr Price confirmed that this process had started and was ongoing. With regards to the CCTV this continued to be monitored by the Stand Safety Group together with the Fire and the Police and although the equipment was obsolete and not ideal, it was working and complemented the work of the stewards and was continually kept under review and would continue to remain live.

During the ensuing debate some Members raised questions regarding the wifi system and how it would work with the current system, why the west stand was up for sale, when the load testing was undertaken if any issues arose that this be reported back to the Committee, were there any plans to replace the CCTV and if it failed how would this effect the Certificate,

Mr Price confirmed that wifi would not work with the current system and that the whole system would need to be changed. This would be looked at if the system was to fail. With regards to the west stand, this was owned by TCAT/the Hotel. The work to the AFC part ie the steps and terraces had been undertaken but TCAT were not really prepared to put any more money into the structure as they had put the Hotel up for sale, but it would ultimately be their responsibility prior to the three year period review date ending. This would be monitored over the next 12 months and the Club would continue to work with TCAT. With regard to the load testing, work would be monitored by the Safety Group and if any issues arose these would be resolved. The CCTV had undergone a maintenance programme and quite a lot of money had been spent. The Club were of the understanding that at some point the CCTV would need to be replaced but there was currently no budget for this. Mr Price confirmed that the Fire Authority, the Police and the FA had looked at the CCTV and it was not currently a requirement for the ground to have CCTV, but it had been installed for safety and insurance reasons.

Mr Harris gave further details of the Fire Risk Assessment and the issues which were outstanding. Work to be undertaken within one month included removing combustibles and obstacles from stairwells, installing an evacuation aid within the Learning Centre, ensuring fire doors fully closed and fitting approved hold open devices for the learning room and reception. Policies and staff training also needed upgrading regarding evacuation procedures for disabled persons and fire policy. Mr Harris confirmed that he was satisfied that the policies were in place, but that they were not available to the assessor on the day. With regard to the work to be undertaken within three months this included the portable appliance testing, which was ongoing, and formal inductions and basic fire awareness training for all staff. The Fire Safety Officer was currently trained to Level 4 and the Stewards trained to Level 3. All other staff would be trained to Level 2 with written records of staff training being brought up-to-date. A flammable proof store was required together with work on the fire compartment line and this was to be looked at to clarify what works needed to be undertaken. Signage on some of the doors was missing or wrongly placed and this would be rectified. Some policies, procedures and practices needed bringing up-to-date.

Some Members raised concerns regarding the policies and procedures being out of date and the lack of fire certificates.

Mr Price confirmed that the policies and procedures were in place but unfortunately the assessor turned up unannounced and that he was unavailable to produce the documents on the day. With regard to the fire certificate, the system linked to that of the hotel. AFC

Telford Utd had their part of the certificate, but he was awaiting the hotel's confirmation that their certificate was in place in order that a joint certificate could be issued.

Mr Harris informed Members that the electrical installation was currently being carried out and that this was an enormous task and the work on the emergency lighting was being carried out imminently. He suggested that the recommendation be amended and be granted subject to a condition that the electrical testing had been completed.

During the ensuing debate, Members suggested that the recommendation be amended to read “. . . load testing and electrical installation testing be completed on or before 29 April 2018 . . .”.

Upon being put to the vote it was, unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that the Service Delivery Manager Development Management be authorised to grant the Safety Certificate application for the Regulated Stands for a period of 12 months, subject to a condition that the load testing and electrical installation testing was completed on or before 29 April 2018 and the programme of structural repairs for 2020 being worked on to the satisfaction of the Council.

The meeting ended at 6.36 pm.

Chairman:

Date: