

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 6.00 pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford**

#### **PRESENT**

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

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

#### **LC-25      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors C Mason and J Seymour

#### **LC-26      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **LC-27      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **LC-28      SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 AND FIRE SAFETY & PLACES OF SPORT ACT 1987 – REGULATED STAND CERTIFICATES FOR AFC TELFORD UTD FOOTBALL STADIUM**

The Building Control Team Leader presented a report which provided Members with an update of events since the last meeting on 9 December 2015, when the Committee agreed to issue temporary Regulated Stand Certificates for the David Hutchison (north), University of Wolverhampton (west) and Frank Nagington (south) stands at the AFC Telford Utd Football Stadium for a further period of 70 days. This was to allow for further work to be completed on the fire alarm and testing of some safety barriers.

A pre-match inspection was carried out by the Sports Safety Group on 23 January 2016, which was also attended by some members of the Committee (as per the invitation made by the Club at the last meeting). At the inspection visit, the Club demonstrated that they had actively taken on board the previous comments of the Safety Group, and the Group was satisfied that most of the necessary improvements had been made. Some minor areas were identified that could be picked up through the Club's maintenance programme. At the visit, the Club was also able to demonstrate that the new fire alarm installation was well under way.

With regard to the outstanding issues of the fire alarm and barrier testing, the Club had provided a further update this week to the Safety Group. In relation to the fire alarm, the electrical junction box was due to be installed on 9 February 2016 and completion of the installation would be soon after that. In terms of the barriers, there had been a delay in the testing being carried out due to the company concerned re-arranging the original date of 11 January. The testing had taken place earlier in the week, and so a written report was not yet available. However, it was understood that the only issue found was with two steel handrails outside one of the boxes - but that the testing company had queried the loading criteria they had been asked to test on. Clarification had been sought today from the engineers that had carried out the initial risk assessment, but their response was still awaited. Until the issue with these specific barriers had been resolved, the Club had indicated that they would manage the situation via additional safety measures at that location in the ground.

Given that the Sports Safety Group was satisfied that the issues previously highlighted had been actively addressed, and that the fire alarm installation was close to completion, the recommendation in the report had been to delegate authority to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager to grant the Regulated Stands Certificates, subject to a condition relating to any remedial work being required on safety barriers. Following the barrier testing, it was now considered unlikely that any remedial work would be required, and therefore it was proposed that the condition be deleted from the recommendation.

Some of those Members who attended the pre-match inspection on 23 January commented that they had been reassured that the current safety arrangements at the ground were satisfactory, and the Building Control Team Leader confirmed that the additional safety measures would remain in place until the new fire alarm system had been tested and was operational. One or two other minor safety issues had been noted during the visit, but reassurance was provided that these had been addressed by the Club.

**RESOLVED (one against) – that authority be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager to grant the Regulated Stands Certificates for AFC Telford Utd Football Stadium for the balance of the 12 month period expiring on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....