

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 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, R T Kiernan, C N Mason, L A Murray, J Pinter, J M Seymour, C F Smith and M J Smith.

In Attendance: V Hulme (Development Management Service Delivery Manager), J Stafford (Principal Surveyor), A Astley (Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services) N Minshall (Service Delivery Manager Public Protection) A Hunt (Public Protection Manager), P Martin (Legal Advisor) and J Clarke (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer).

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

LC-05 Apologies for Absence

None.

LC-06 Declarations of Interest

None.

LC-07 Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 11 June 2018 be signed by the Chair.

LC-08 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 J Stafford 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 2019 to 14 April 2020. He introduced Mr A Pryce 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. The previous certificates highlighted a number of recommendations that needed to be addressed by 2020 but it was confirmed that these certificates were now up to date. There was an error in Appendix A to the report in which it wrongly stated that under “Escape lighting battery test” in the box marked “28 days for any remedial works to be done” that works would be needed by 17/3/19 – there were no advisories to this certificate and this date could be deleted. The structural repairs were due to be completed by 2020 and if these were not implemented the Council would take the appropriate action.

Mr Pryce confirmed that all necessary testing had been undertaken and that they were currently waiting for invoices in order for payment to be made. Once payment had been made the Certificates would then be issued. All works had been carried out except for the structural works which were due to be completed by 2020.

During the ensuing debate some Members raised concerns they had previously had with regard to the Fire Alarm System, the upcoming match with Leyton Orient and capacity issues, the delay in getting works completed and the potential sale of the hotel and the impact this would have, the retaining swimming pool wall and water leak damage and the escape lighting.

Mr Pryce informed Members that the Club were now in a much better place and had a good grasp on the outstanding issues. The Club had been working with the hotel and the fire alarm had not been tested and reviewed and a certificate had been granted. The capacity had been reduced in 2015 and there was no intention to increase these this season. Although, the Club may look to increase these figures in the next 12 months. There would be no impact to the area that contained the structural defect and this was now being looked at with the hotel as the sale had now fallen through. It was expected that a new cleat would be installed which would rectify the problem rather than a continual repair. He confirmed that the emergency lighting and signage had now been certificated and that there was a back-up generator on site.

During further debate, other Members raised concerns regarding the completion date of "2020" and felt that this needed to be tightened up and reflected in the recommendation. Some Members also raised concerns regarding the negotiations and the leases and the unwillingness to work towards providing a safe environment.

The Development Management Service Delivery Manager confirmed that the date of completion of the works would be April 2020 in line with the next certificate.

Mr Price confirmed that the hotel were hoping to have sold the business on prior to spending any money on the repairs, but now that the sale had fallen through that negotiations were taking place and in any event AFC Telford United would ensure that any works would be completed prior to the deadline.

It was proposed and seconded that the recommendation should read:

"that the Service Delivery Manager Development Management be authorised to grant the Safety Certificate applications for the Regulated Stands for a period of 12 months, to 14 April 2020, subject to the following conditions:

- a) all certificates indicated in Appendix A are up to date with any recommendations actioned within the prescribed time period indicated within that certificate. These certificates are to be issued to the council for review; and
- b) the programme of structural repairs is to be completed by 1 April 2020 as set out in the structural report. The programme of repairs is to be issued and reviewed to satisfaction of the Council.

Should the above not be implemented the council will look to enforce its legal responsibilities.”

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

RESOLVED – that the **Service Delivery Manager Development Management be authorised to grant the Safety Certificate applications for the Regulated Stands for a period of 12 months, to 14 April 2020, subject to the following conditions:**

- a) **all certificates indicated in Appendix A are up to date with any recommendations actioned within the prescribed time period indicated within that certificate. These certificates are to be issued to the council for review; and**
- b) **the programme of structural repairs is to be completed by 1 April 2020 as set out in the structural report. The programme of repairs is to be issued and reviewed to satisfaction of the Council.**

should the above not be implemented the council will look to enforce its legal responsibilities.

LC-09 Licence Fees

The Public Protection Manager presented the report on the proposed level of Licence Fees and charges for Hackney Carriage, Private Hire trades, Gambling and other licences. The fees had last been reviewed in 2017/18 and due to the introduction of new Regulations giving specific change to the Council’s processes the fees had been reviewed for the forthcoming financial year. Local Authorities were only allowed to recover the cost of administering licences. Some licence fees were set by statute or statutory instruments and many of these had not historically recovered the cost of administering the services. The review process was undertaken following Local Government Association guidelines and where applicable an increase made following the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.1% to areas such as gambling, general licences and operators licences.

Changes to the Licence fees were outlined and included new Taxi Licence applications whereby a change in process to online applications had been introduced and DBS and Right to Work checks were now undertaken by an outside agency. The renewals process had been streamlined and now virtually mirrored the online application process and the fees had been adjusted to recover the cost of administering the service. Transfer fees had increased as previously the Council had not been recovering costs. Operators’ renewals and transfers were in line with the 2.1% CPI increase.

With regard to Animal Licences, the Law changed in October 2018 and processes had been consolidated and simplified according to the new regulations. A risk assessment/scoring system had been introduced and Veterinary Inspector fees had now been included where they accompany the Licensing Officers. Changes had also been made to the hiring of horses fees due to the cost of the Equine Veterinary Inspectors.

Park Homes fees had been set by national legislation and upon review the Council had not been recovering all of their costs. There would be a new application fee for site owners and annual inspection fees. The majority of local sites would be Band C for 20 homes and there would be an increase of £9 per home.

The Council had undertaken a consultation of Hackney Carriage Operators/Drivers with regard to the increase on their renewals. One response had been received which could be found annexed to the report.

During the debate some Members asked if the fare for the Hackney Carriages was set, if outsourcing and reducing the application fee whether this would cause the companies to come back from Shropshire. With regard to animal licences these were for 1-3 years so it was asked when the changes would come into force. What was the benefit of outsourcing the DBS and right to work checks.

The Public Protection Manager confirmed that the Hackney Carriage Fee was a maximum fee, but it could be set lower if they wished. The Assistant Director: Neighbourhood and Customer Services confirmed that Shropshire drivers may return and that this had been reflected in the fees. She confirmed that that animal licence fees would change on the payment of the renewal fee. The benefit of outsourcing the DBS and right to work checks was to speed up the application process to encourage drivers to return to be licenced at Telford & Wrekin.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the proposed fees for the 2019/2020 Financial Year be approved; and**
- b) the proposed fees come into force on 1 April 2019**

The meeting ended at 6.46 pm.

Chairman:

Date: