

**At a meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY, 2018 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Fletcher, P. Gibson, Heron, Lawson, Leadbitter, D. MacKnight, Scaplehorn, Turner and A. Wood

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 – Stadium of Light – Renewal of Safety Certificate for Season 2018/19

Councillors Heron and Turner made open declarations that they were season ticket holders for Sunderland AFC.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bell, Galbraith, Howe and Johnston.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2018  
Part I**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, Part I (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Sunderland Stadium of Light – Renewal of Safety Certificate for Season 2018/19**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee's approval of the application by Sunderland Association Football Club for the renewal of the General Safety Certificate for the season 2018/19.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Paul Baxter, Building Control Manager, presented the report and welcomed questions and comments from Members.

Councillor P. Gibson referred to the government discussions around safe standing areas and asked whether there would be any impact on the safety certificate if this went ahead. Mr Baxter advised that should safe standing areas be introduced at the Stadium of Light then there would need to be a reassessment of the safety certificate

and the matter would be brought back before Members; it was likely that the capacity would reduce if safe standing areas were introduced due to the implantation of rail seating within those areas.

Councillor Lawson questioned whether the certificate needed to be renewed annually and Mr Baxter advised that the certificate needed to be reviewed annually however the club had decided to renew the certificate annually. Councillor Lawson then stated that the fee had been set 18 years ago and expressed concerns about leaving it as it is; she asked whether the fee should be increased with inflation given that local government finances were very tight at the moment. Mr Baxter advised that this had been discussed in the past; the legislation stated that the fee could only be charged based on cost recovery for the time spent on the administration of the certificate. The time spent on producing the certificate was logged and it was not possible to justify increasing the costs. Mr Wotherspoon added that there had been licensing cases taken through the courts and these had clarified what costs could be included in the fees; it was important to note that the fees would continue to be reassessed and the club appeared to be happy with the fee as it stood. Mr Baxter then, following comments from Councillor A. Wood, added that there had been discussions with the club and that in the past there had been special certificates issued in respect of concerts at the stadium and that there had not been any fee attached to these; the club were looking at the possibility of holding further concerts in future years.

2. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. Approval be given to the grant of a General Safety Certificate for the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the season 2018/19 for capacities of 48,339 (non segregation match) and 48,095 (segregated match) on the same terms as the current safety certificate.
  - b. The fee payable for the Certificate not be increased.

### **Street Collection Permits Within the Vicinity of the Sunderland Stadium of Light**

The Executive Director of Economy and Place submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested that the Committee agree the format of the draw with the purpose of allocating street collection permits within the vicinity of the Sunderland Stadium of Light during the 2018/19 season and that the Chair subsequently undertake the draw.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Committee was informed that the Club had not yet provided information detailing which fixtures the SAFC Foundation wished to collect at and as such it was recommended that the matter be deferred to a future meeting in order to allow the Club the opportunity to provide this information.

3. RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to a future meeting.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

4. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered likely to include the disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual and the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information). (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 3).

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,  
Chairman.

**Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of further items are included in Part II.