

**At an extraordinary meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Elliott, Emerson, Fletcher, P. Gibson, Heron, Johnston, Scaplehorn and Turner.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 3 – Stadium of Light – Renewal of Safety Certificate for Season 2017/18

Item 6 – Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – Street Trading Consent in the Vicinity of the Stadium of Light

Councillors Emerson, Heron, Johnston and Turner declared that they were season ticket holders for Sunderland AFC. They would be considering the matters with an open mind.

**Apologies for Absence**

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

**Change in the Order of Business**

It was agreed that Item 6 – Street Trading Consent in the Vicinity of the Stadium of Light be considered first in order to allow the attending Police Inspector to leave following the consideration of this matter.

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – Street Trading Consent in the Vicinity of the Stadium of Light**

The Executive Director of Economy and Place submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members consideration of a request from Northumbria Police to suspend street trading consents in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Reading, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, presented the report and advised that there had been two representations received from traders objecting to the request made by the Police.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that there had been a similar application last year where Members had agreed to allow trading until half time; he asked whether there had been any issues at that match. Mr Reading advised that the previous match was an international friendly between England and Australia and that international matches attracted a different crowd to club fixtures; there had not been any particular issues at that match.

The Chairman then introduced Inspector David Little who was in attendance to address the Committee in support of the application from Northumbria Police. He advised that Sunderland AFC had offered 10,000 tickets to Celtic which was far more than the usual allocation for visiting supporters. There was no direct train and as such it was anticipated that 90percent of visiting supporters would be travelling by coach. It was anticipated that there would be between 135 and 171 coaches depending on the number of tickets sold and these would be parked along Sheepfolds. There was no history of issues between Sunderland and Celtic however Celtic supporters were known to be boisterous; in Scotland drinking was banned at football matches however the behaviour of Celtic fans was still boisterous. The crowd would be significantly different to that at the England v Australia match. He summarised that the reason for the request was due to the number of away fans who would be attending and the number of coaches associated with these fans which would need to be parked in the area and the possibility of disorder occurring.

Councillor Fletcher queried whether there was any intention to ban alcohol at this match. Inspector Little advised that there was not and that the ban on alcohol at matches in Scotland was a Scottish law. Councillor Fletcher then expressed concerns over the traders being penalised by not being allowed to trade on this match day.

Councillor Heron queried whether cars would be prohibited from parking along Sheepfolds and also suggested that if cars were prohibited then the wasteland where a factory unit had been demolished could be used to park some of the coaches. Inspector Little confirmed that Sheepfolds would be closed early to prevent cars from parking.

Members discussed the matter and Councillor P. Gibson acknowledged that the traders did have a need to be able to trade at every opportunity however he felt that on this occasion there was a need to accept the Police's request due to the large number of visiting fans and the large number of coaches associated with these visitors. Councillor Elliott seconded this and with all Members being in agreement it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the street trading consents in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light be suspended on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### **Sunderland Stadium of Light – Renewal of Safety Certificate for Season 2017/18**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee's approval of the General Safety Certificate for the Stadium of Light for the Season 2017/18.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Paul Baxter, Building Control Manager, introduced the report and advised that the fee had been looked at to ensure that it was still appropriate and it had been shown that the fee did still cover the cost of the work around the production of the certificate; as such the fee would be remaining at £12,250

2. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The grant of a General Safety Certificate for the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the season 2017/18 for capacities of 48,339 (Non Segregation Match) and 48,095 (Segregated Match) on the same terms as in the current Safety Certificate be approved.
- b. The fee payable for the Certificate not be increased.

**Commons Act 2006 – Section 15 – Application to Register Land at Tunstall Hills, Sunderland as a Town or Village Green**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of an application submitted by the Tunstall Hills Protection Group to register land at Tunstall Hills which was not already designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest as a town or village green.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jim Wotherspoon, Solicitor, introduced the report and advised Members of the procedure involved with the consideration of the application. There had been a notice published in the Sunderland Echo on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and this notice was also available at the Fawcett Street Customer Service Centre. Any interested parties had between 20<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> August to submit any objections to the application. The land was owned by the Council and as such should there be an objection to the application by the Council the matter would be subject to a public enquiry chaired by an independent inspector. The final decision on whether to register the land as a town or village green would be made by this Committee and a further report would be submitted once the consultation period had expired and following any public enquiry.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that there had been a planning application submitted to build houses on the area covered by this application; he did not feel that this was an appropriate location for housing and queried the implications of the application to register the land as a town or village green. Mr Wotherspoon advised that should the land be registered as a town or village green then it would not be possible to submit any planning applications for the land.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The report be noted
- b. The Head of Law and Governance be authorised to appoint an independent inspector and make arrangements for holding a public enquiry if necessary
- c. A further report be brought to the Committee for a final decision once the procedure had been completed.

## **Designation of Streets for the Purpose of Requiring Consent for Street Trading**

The Executive Director of Economy and Place submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee's authorisation to undertake the legal process necessary to enable the Committee to designate certain streets in the city, as set out in the report, as areas where street trading would require the consent of the Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Reading introduced the report and advised that the current designations did not cover all of the streets where people may wish to trade and the new designations, if approved, would replace the existing designations to ensure that all of the necessary areas were covered.

4. RESOLVED that authorisation be given to the undertaking of the legal process to enable the Committee to resolve to designate certain streets in the city as areas where street trading would require the consent of the council.

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

5. 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.