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To: Councillor Reynolds, Convener; and Councillors Clark, Collie, Corall and Milne.

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 30 June 2010

SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The Members of the **SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY GROUP MEETING** are requested to meet in Committee Room 3 - Town House on **THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2010 at 10.00 am.**

Jane G MacEachran
Head of Legal And Democratic Services

BUSINESS

- 1 Minute of Meeting of Sports Ground Advisory Working Group - 08 April 2010
(Pages 1 - 4)
- 2 Note of Meeting between Grampian Fire & Rescue Service & Licensing - 27 April 2010 (Pages 5 - 6)
- 3 Letter dated 29 April 2010 from Grampian Fire & Rescue Service regarding Pittodrie Safety Certificate and related matters (Pages 7 - 8)
- 4 Result of Inspection of Pittodrie Stadium - 05 May 2010
- 5 Revised Safety Certificate
- 6 UEFA Document
- 7 Structured Timetable for future inspections
- 8 Name of the Sports Ground Advisory Working Group
- 9 Date of Next Meeting of Sports Ground Advisory Working Group

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Arlene Dunbar, e-mail ardunbar@aberdeencity.gov.uk or tel. 52(3411)

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SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

ABERDEEN, 8 April, 2010. - Minute of Meeting of the SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP. Present:- Ivor Churcher, Environmental Health, Kevin Coutts, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, Brenda Flaherty, Licensing, Keith Jensen, Scottish Ambulance Service, David Kidd, Building Standards, Grant Tierney, Building Standards, Caroline Treanor, Licensing, Alex Venters, Environmental Health and Adrian Watson, Grampian Police.

Apologies for Absence: Drew Carr, Scottish Ambulance Service and Salter Watson, Grampian Police.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF 14 JANUARY 2010

1. The Group had before it the minute of meeting on 14 January 2010.

The Group resolved:-

to approve the minute subject to an amendment at item 5 – Contingency Exercise, second paragraph to read “at Clause 15, paragraph c”.

SAFETY TEAM VISITS

2. Caroline Treanor advised the Group that she had contacted Christina Taylor at Glasgow City Council regarding safety visits to football stadia in Glasgow.

Ms. Taylor advised that Glasgow City Council Safety Team carry out a minimum of two inspections at each stadium per year, one match day visit and one non-match day visit.

The non-match day inspection checked stadium structure and safety facilities required by the Green Guide including documentation, records and certification.

The match day inspection monitors the operation of the stadium to ensure management compliance with the Green Guide and also to observe crowd dynamics and use of the stadium. The Safety Team comprises of Glasgow City Council Legal Services, Building Standards and Public Safety, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service, Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Each agency has noted the clauses of the Green Guide for which they have an interest and this has been documented in the Green Guide Responsibilities Document.

Glasgow have developed checklists for the inspections which include the items recommended by the Home Office Circular 72/1987.

Ivor Churcher noted that Environmental Health are not a member of the Safety Team in Glasgow. He also advised that he had contacted Highland, Ayrshire and Perth & Kinross Councils who advised that Environmental Health are not involved in inspection visits at stadiums.

Grant Tierney advised that none of the local authorities who issue safety certificate to the twelve SPL Football Clubs having designated sports grounds,

Kevin Coutts informed the Group that Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service are no longer participating in inspections at stadia. There is currently a debate on who should be enforcing legislation with the respect to stadia, Mr. Coutts indicated that the Fire Safety Act 2005 provides that local authorities are the enforcing authority under that Act. In Lothian and Borders and Tayside the Fire and Rescue Service is not present on match days.

He further advised that Grampian Fire and Rescue Service would be taking a view regarding their involvement in inspections at Pittodrie stadium and that the Service was looking for a meeting with the Council to formalise the process with a view to adopting a Memorandum of Understanding.

Grant Tierney suggested that it would be useful to define each of the agency's roles and identify which agency is responsible for sections of the Green Guide. David Kidd advised that at one time Grampian Police held such a document. Adrian Watson agreed to look for the document at Police Headquarters. It was also noted that with a new guide and safety certificate in place this document would be used as a "starting point" and that all members of group should input to a review and updating of the document.

AMENDMENT OF CLAUSE 15

3. Caroline Treanor advised that at its last meeting the Group had resolved to amend Clause 15 at paragraph C. However, as the current certificate expires on 7 June 2010, it was decided that no specific amendment would be made to Clause 15 until after 7 June when a new certificate would be in place. Meanwhile Caroline Treanor would send a letter to Pittodrie advising them of this.

Brenda Flaherty confirmed that Licensing would carry out an annual review of the certificate and asked for any amendments or comments by members of the Group to be forwarded to Caroline Treanor by 30 April 2010.

The Group resolved:-

that Ms. Treanor would invite the Club to submit suggested amendments to the current safety certificate with a view to possible incorporation into the new certificate, should they wish to do so.

DEVIATIONS

4. David Kidd informed the Group that Building Standards had met with Aberdeen Football Club and their architect to discuss deviations from the Green Guide.

Following this meeting Building Standards forwarded for guidance purposes a list of clauses that the Club should particularly review and where it is possible that deviations may be present.

5. Grant Tierney commented that Building Standards appeared to be the only Service raising issues with deviations, however, all Services should have an input into the deviation list.

There followed a general discussion about what constituted a deviation from the Guide. Caroline Treanor informed the Group that a deviation was defined in Clause 4 of the Safety Certificate.

MEDIA PROVISION

5. David Kidd advised that Aberdeen Football Club were providing information regarding media provision from various media companies on a match by match basis. Building Standards feel that an annual submission from the Club would meet the needs of the safety certificate rather than receiving a submission from individual television operators. The annual submission should cover all related guidance from the Green Guide and thus encompass the requirements of individual provision

FEEDBACK FROM BUILDINGS STANDARD MEETING – GLASGOW, 8 MARCH, 2010

6. David Kidd and Grant Tierney attended a meeting in Glasgow on 8th March 2010 with colleagues from Building Standards from authorities who have Premier League stadia. There was a total of fourteen authorities present.

A presentation on the Review of Police Resources Deployed at Football, was given to the group from Drew Innes, Chief Inspector, at Strathclyde Police.

Seventeen recommendations have been made as a result of the review, essentially there will be a transfer of responsibility from the Police to the Safety Certificate holder, in accordance with the Safety of Sports Grounds ACT 1975.

Prior to every game, the level of risk will be determined and the game will be categorised. A predetermined Police presence has been given to each category of game, at all times the safety of the spectators will be the responsibility of the of the Safety Certificate Holder.

One of the issues to come out of the meeting was that there is a review of policing at football matches currently underway. Each match will be categorised and the category will determine the level of policing at the match.

Grant Tierney considered that this would place more responsibility on the management of Aberdeen Football Club, as the Safety Certificate Holder, and the role of the Sports Ground Advisory Working Group would become critical for the implementation and enforcement of the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975, in accordance with the guidance set out in the 5th Edition of the Green Guide.. It would be important to be able to justify decisions of the Group and have a clear audit trail of decisions.

Grant Tierney confirmed that the other relevant topic raised at the meeting in Glasgow was the involvement of the members of the Sports Ground Advisory Working Group. Every member of the Group is responsible for every decision that the group makes.

Adrian Watson advised the Group that at the next match at Pittodrie there would be a Police Sergeant and four Constables present. He commented that typically the police are seen to run the event and this should not be the case as it is the Club's responsibility.

Brenda Flaherty suggested that members of the Group visit the stadium to establish a baseline. Grant Tierney said that the Group need to consider what it expects to happen and then visit the stadium to see that it is happening.

Brenda Flaherty considered that Members on the Sports Ground Advisory Group changes should be kept informed of the current issues.

The Group resolved:-

- (i) to visit Pittodrie on a match before the end of the season;
- (ii) that Caroline Treanor would send a letter to Aberdeen Football Club advising them that both match day and non match day inspections would be undertaken by officers of the Group in the future; and
- (iii) to convene a meeting of the Sports Ground Advisory Group before the vacation period.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

7. David Kidd enquired about whether Dave McIntosh, Emergency Planner, was a member of the Working Group.

The Group resolved:-

to invite him to future meetings of the Group.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8. 8 July 2010 at 10am.

NOTE OF MEETING: 27 APRIL 2010

SAFETY CERTIFICATE: PITTODRIE

Attendees: Brenda Flaherty (BF); Caroline Treanor; Kevin Lackie (KL) and Kevin Coutts (KC) (Grampian Fire and Rescue Service - GFRS).

GFRS advised they are not the enforcing authority in terms of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act) for the Sports Ground Safety Certificate. The Local Authority is. Whilst they are the enforcing authority for most relevant premises within the 2005 Act, they are not in relation to Pittodrie. Whilst they will not take enforcement action, they will audit back of house issues – but not the sports ground part of things. It is not their statutory role.

They advised that Strathclyde have nothing to do with sports grounds. Tayside and Lothian and Borders Fire Service have various limited involvement eg: functions suites but not stands. GFRS are more like Tayside in their approach.

GFRS advised that, in terms of the Act, the Duty Holder at Pittodrie will be the responsible person with regards to fire safety. The Local Authority, whilst the enforcing authority, are not responsible for fire safety.

BF indicated that she is concerned to see less GFRS involvement. She indicated that she would be very concerned if the local authority did not have access to advice on fire issues, with reference to Pittodrie. She asked if KC would continue to attend SPAWG meetings. She indicated that the local authority as enforcing authority may wish to take advice from GFRS as it does not have expertise in relation to fire issues. She does not want to be in a position that the enforcing authority would have no one to turn to for advice on fire issues. This would be of concern to Elected members.

KL advised that GFRS would still be available for the immediate future to offer advice. KC will continue to attend meetings of the SGAWG meantime, but he could not guarantee for how long. He advised that there are other agencies from whom we could also obtain advice.

KL asked whether the local authority could buy in the advice service. BF advised that buying in independent fire advice is not an option and she thought members would expect GFRS to take on this role.

KL advised that the position of GFRS is flowing from the Act and indicated that we may wish to look at GFRS Enforcement Policy dated May 2009 on the GFRS website. GFRS no longer issue Fire Safety Certificates nor do they inspect or write reports. They undertake audits on an ad hoc basis. Responsibility for fire safety ultimately lies with the Duty Holder.

BF asked when the next Safety Certificate is due for review would GFRS look over the relevant provisions in relation to fire safety.

She advised that the enforcing authority would require to ask GFRS if there were any changes to fire safety provisions that would require to be changed.

KL said this advice would be available but in the longterm GFRS would be considering their involvement. They also no longer undertake match day inspections.

KL advised he will discuss the outcome of the meeting with his line manager, Gordon Moir.

He will confirm the GFRS position in writing.

BF will liaise with the Convener, Councillor Reynolds regarding convening a meeting of the Sports Grounds Advisory Group, probably on 8th July when the SGAWG was due to meet anyway. KL will be invited to attend also.

Agenda Item 3



Chief Fire Officer David Dalziel QFSM MA

Please reply to: Kevin Lackie
Direct Dial: 01343 549942
Fax: 01343 540482
Email: kevin.lackie@grampianfrs.org.uk

Our Ref: KLVMD/FS/A/460/3
Your Ref:

Date: 29 April 2010

Please quote our reference on all correspondence

Brenda Flaherty
Legal & Democratic Services
Aberdeen City Council
Ground Floor
Town House
Broad Street
ABERDEEN AB10 1AQ

Dear Brenda

Pittodrie Safety Certificate And Related Matters

Further to our meeting on 27 April 2010 I write to confirm the position of Grampian Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) regarding the Pittodrie football stadium Safety Certification process and our role in the Advisory Group.

Under Section 61(9) (a) of the Fire Scotland Act 2005, as amended, GFRS are not the Enforcing Authority for sports grounds, consequently the Service will not undertake audits in respect to Pittodrie football stadium. The Enforcing Authority for a sports ground is the local authority which in this case is Aberdeen City Council.

In relation to advice and support on fire safety matters, GFRS will carry out the following actions and provide support to Aberdeen City Council in line with the matters identified below.

- GFRS will audit the areas that are not the sports ground or the areas in and out of the stadium used by spectators. These audits will be carried out in line with our risk based audit programme. Any reports appropriate to these audits will be copied to the Licensing Authority;
- GFRS will continue to attend and contribute to the Safety Advisory Group;
- GFRS will continue to provide advice regarding specific fire safety matters on request of Aberdeen City Council regarding fire safety issues relevant to the Sports Ground Safety Certificate;
- GFRS will, on request, attend an annual pre-match inspection on a match day in an advisory capacity on.

I trust that the above provides the information you require and look forward to our continued contribution to assist in providing for the safety of members of the public that attend Pittodrie football stadium.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Lackie', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Lackie
Legislative Fire Safety Manager



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