

## SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY GROUP

ABERDEEN, 14 October 2010. - Minute of Meeting of the SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY GROUP. Present:- Brenda Flaherty, Caroline Treanor, Jacqui Wallace (Licensing), Ivor Churcher, Alex Venters (Environmental Health), Kevin Coutts, Mike Mitchell (GFRS), John McCullough (Scottish Ambulance Service), David McIntosh (Emergency Planning), Grant Tierney (Building Standards), Adrian Watson, Salter Watson (Grampian Police).

Also Attending: John Morgan and Gordon Ritchie, Aberdeen Football Club.

Apologies: David Kidd

### **MINUTE OF MEETING OF 14 JULY 2010**

1. The minute was approved, subject to noting the absence of a reference to the minute of the previous meeting held on 08 April 2010.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

2. With reference to Clause 18 of Article 1 of the minute of 14 July 2010, it was agreed to insert reference to an ambulance being provided when there are more than 5,000 spectators.

### **OUTCOME OF JULY/AUGUST 2010 INSPECTIONS**

3. Ivor Churcher, Environmental Health, advised the Group that he had inspected Pittodrie on 06 August 2010 and no problems had been identified. Grant Tierney, Building Standards, had inspected the stadium on 27 July 2010. There were a couple of minor issues identified which had now been addressed, however, at the time of inspection he did not have access to the fire risk assessment document and was awaiting sight of it before finally reporting back to the Group. The ambulance service had also checked Pittodrie with regard to the signage and no problems had been found. It was agreed that all three services would forward reports, to include nil returns, to the Licensing Team.

### **FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

4. Kevin Coutts informed the Group that he had held discussions with David Kidd in relation to elements of the Green Guide that do not fall under fire safety but which he felt should be included in any fire risk assessment.

John Morgan agreed that any deviations that refer to fire risk or that have a structural impact would be moved to the fire risk assessment document.

Kevin Coutts sought clarification on the standards to be applied in terms of fire risk before a safety certificate is issued. After discussion he stated that he would be satisfied if the deviations in respect of fire risk and structural elements were moved, as agreed, into the fire risk assessment document.

Brenda Flaherty asked if all the issues identified as a priority 1 in the fire risk assessment had been attended to.

John Morgan advised that all the issues highlighted in the assessment had been addressed, however, because of the nature of the assessment there will always be certain items that appear every time in any fire risk assessment documentation and that as long as control measures are in place there should be no issue.

Grant Tierney was concerned that because the Working Group had not met since the fire risk assessment was produced, it had been unable to sign-off certain deviations.

John Morgan advised the Group that the Club's architect had now seen the fire risk assessment document and was satisfied with it. It was agreed that a letter from Aberdeen Football Club's architect regarding the fire risk assessment and the P&S factors would be forwarded to Licensing for inclusion on the next agenda, to enable the Group to revisit the deviations. (This letter has now been received).

## **UNANNOUNCED STADIUM INSPECTIONS**

5. At its meeting on 14 July 2010, the Working Group decided that there should be one unannounced match day inspection per annum.

Brenda Flaherty informed the club representatives that this decision was based on the fact that it is the local authority and not the police who are responsible for enforcing the safety certificate, and having consulted other local authorities had ascertained that this was best practice in Glasgow.

John Morgan voiced his opposition to unannounced stadium inspections which would cause operational issues for the club. Gordon Ritchie advised the Group that the club could accommodate one or two people at short notice if they remained in the Control Room. It was agreed that if an unscheduled visit is to take place Aberdeen Football Club would receive 24 hours notice. The visit would take the format of observation from the Control Room only and would not involve a tour of the stadium.

## **MATCH DAY INSPECTION OF PITTODRIE – 23 OCTOBER 2010**

6. The Group noted that the match has a 12 o'clock kick off and that there is a briefing at 8.00am at Police Headquarters, Queen Street, Aberdeen.

It was agreed that members of the Group who would be attending the inspection would provide Aberdeen Football Club with a list of specific issues that they would wish to concentrate on during the inspection. These would concentrate on deviations which were being managed by human intervention.

#### **A.O.C.B.**

##### **7. (A) New Stadium Proposal**

It was agreed that the new stadium proposal would be added as an agenda item for the April 2011 meeting and that a representative from Aberdeen Football Club would be invited to the meeting to address the Group.

##### **(B) Stadium Visits**

It was agreed that Councillors who were members of the Sports Ground Advisory Group should visit the stadium independently of officers. Brenda Flaherty was to liaise with Aberdeen Football Club regarding dates for Councillors' visits.

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**8.** Meetings in 2011 are scheduled for 27 January 2011, 21 April 2011, 07 July 2011 (joint meeting with Sports Ground Advisory Group) and 20 October 2011.