

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Licensing Committee

### Meeting held 27 July 2020

**PRESENT:** Councillors Andy Bainbridge (Chair), Karen McGowan (Chair), Dawn Dale, Roger Davison, Adam Hurst, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Joe Otten, Josie Paszek, Vickie Priestley, Bob Pullin, Mick Rooney, Jim Steinke and Cliff Woodcraft

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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards.

#### **2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 The minutes of meetings of (a) this Committee held 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020 and (b) the Sub-Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, were approved as correct records.

#### **5. SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 (AS AMENDED) - REVISED GENERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATES - DESIGNATED SPORTS STADIA**

5.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report informing Members of the issue of new general safety certificates for the two major football stadia in the city under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) (Ref No.62/20).

5.2 Matt Proctor Sports Grounds and Events Lead Officer, presented the report and set out background information stating that the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic had caused the postponement of football fixtures in March and subsequently, following advice from the Government, fixtures were allowed to resume without spectators. This meant that safety certificates for the football stadia in the city required amendment. Matt Proctor stated that a revised certificate was issued to Hillsborough Stadium on 19<sup>th</sup> June and Bramall Lane Stadium on 26<sup>th</sup> June, allowing matches to be played behind closed doors.

5.3 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- The General Safety Certificates set out a range of terms and conditions

that must be complied with at all times. The revised Certificates take out spectator related issues, as spectators were not allowed inside the stadia.

- The Certificates are tied into the Covid Regulations and once those Regulations are relaxed or withdrawn, the safety certificates would require a further review to allow the complete or partial return of spectators.
- The World Snooker Championship was being run as a test event with a limited number of spectators being allowed to attend. The Government would like spectators to be allowed back into football grounds by the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 and the clubs involved were in the process of putting plans in place regarding social distancing measures to be carried out inside the stadia.
- It was anticipated that there wouldn't be any problems when stadia were allowed to operate to full capacity, although problems may arise when dealing with percentages inside grounds. Everyone at the football clubs were aware of what was expected and if adequate plans are not in place, they would remain playing fixtures behind closed doors.

5.4 RESOLVED: That the decision of the Chief Licensing Officer to grant revised general safety certificates in respect of the Hillsborough Stadium, Penistone Road, Sheffield S6 1SW and Bramall Lane Stadium, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4SU (Ref No. 62/20), be noted.

**6. THE SECOND UPDATE AND REVIEW OF TEMPORARY EMERGENCY OFFICER DELEGATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION WITH CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

6.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report containing a review of the additional temporary delegations granted to the Chief Licensing Officer at the meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020, to enable the continued management of the Licensing Service during the ongoing position with Coronavirus (Covid-19) (Ref No.61/20).

6.2 Steve Lonnia, Chief Licensing Officer and Head of Licensing outlined the background to the report and stated that although the powers have been used sparingly in several different licensing systems, they have been quick and efficient. He said that there was to be a further review in October, 2020 and that vehicle testing had already re-commenced. He said that decisions had been taken with regard to street trading, whereby quarterly fees had been waived, there had only been one case to regarding civil marriage registration and the fees for pavement cafes had not been charged.

6.3 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- Since the reopening of pubs and restaurants on 4<sup>th</sup> July, Enforcement Staff had not failed in their duties and had worked diligently. During that first weekend, it had been very quiet, there were only four or five pubs that were

not operating correctly and it was anticipated that these would be visited again with the Police and Health Protection Officers. The vast majority of businesses have carried out what was asked of them.

- With regard to pavement cafes, the Chief Licensing Officer had sent an email to UNITE and he agreed to provide Members with a copy of the email.
- With regard to street trading consent applications, the law requires that each case be considered and that the Policy doesn't dictate the outcome of the case.

6.4 RESOLVED: That the additional temporary emergency delegations that were put in place on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 to enable the continued management of the Licensing Service, be left in place and reviewed in two months' time.