

Licensing Committee Minutes

Date: 2 June 2011

Time: 7.00 - 8.25 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A E Hill (in the Chair)

Councillors Z Ahmed, D H G Barnes, R Gaffney, S Graham, A R Green, C B Harriss, Ms R Knight, S P Lacey, Ms P L Lee, J L Richards OBE and J A Savage, T Snaith

* Denotes Standing Deputy

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W J Bendyshe-Brown, M E Knight and R J Scott

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all Members, in particular the newly elected Councillors, to the first meeting of the Licensing Committee in the new Council year and invited everyone make introductions.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4 LICENSING TRAINING - LICENSING ACT 2003

Mr Brian Whittall, Licensing Officer, and Mrs Kiran Khanna, Principal Solicitor, gave a presentation which outlined legal and procedural aspects relating to the functions and objectives of Licensing Panels. The presentation covered issues including the role of Members at panel hearings, personal and prejudicial interests, the Licensing Act 2003 statutory guidance and rights of appeal. Mention was made of the Council's excellent record with regard to appeals, adding that whilst some decisions had been taken to appeal at the Magistrates Courts, none had been successfully challenged.

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy was mentioned and it was noted that the policy was reviewed and updated every 3 years, the latest review taking place in 2010.

Throughout the presentation, there was opportunity for Members to ask questions and to look in detail at the many aspects of licensing law and legal processes. The Licensing Officer referred to the recent Wycombe 'summit' meeting to which all licence holders in the town centre and many stakeholders had been invited and which had been well attended. He said the meeting had been a success in celebrating the good progress of the town centre, and referred to the importance of sound teamwork between the licensing authority and licence holders to achieve their common goals of the promotion of a vibrant town, a place for people to enjoy and be safe and where businesses could grow and be successful.

Attention was drawn to a successful panel hearing several years previously where there had been much local animosity towards the licensing application concerned. The panel had been able to bring all sides together, address the issues of concern and had achieved consensus on the terms and conditions of the licence, to the eventual satisfaction of all. The Licensing Officer said this had been a very good outcome for the panel.

The part played in the licensing process by other regulatory authorities, such as control of noise / pollution, was explained, together with the right to call for a review of a licence if its terms and conditions were not met.

The Chairman drew the discussions to a close by thanking the Licensing Officer and Principal Solicitor for a very interesting presentation. He said that on 13 June 2011 two licensing panels would take place in the Council Chamber and he said that any Members interested in observing the proceedings would be very welcome to attend.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Mrs K Khanna	- Principal Solicitor
Mr B Whittall	- Licensing Officer
Mrs D Davis	- Democratic Services