

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE
2005 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M P A McMullen (Chairman).
Councillors W Ashley, D R Atkins, P R Ballam,
A L Burlton, E J Cain, J Demonti, Mrs D M Hone,
L R Pinnell, N C Poulton, M Port, B W J Sapsford,
J J Taylor, M J Tindale.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor N Burdett

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Paul Newman	- Community Protection Officer (Process)
Jan Spong	- Head of Community Protection

94 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of
Councillor A L Warman.

95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N C Poulton declared a personal interest in
respect of the matter referred to at Minute 100 - Update on
applications for premises and personal licences under the
Licensing Act 2003 as he was a personal friend of the
owner of Le Papillion, Woodhall Arms, 17 High Street,
Stapleford.

RECOMMENDED ITEM**ACTION****96 AUTHORISATION OF LICENSING OFFICERS**

A report was submitted by the Director of Regulatory Services seeking delegated powers from the Licensing Committee for the function of authorising officers to exercise powers of entry, investigation and enforcement under the Licensing Act 2003 exercised by officers employed within the Community Protection Service of East Herts Council to the Director of Regulatory Services.

Delegating the function would improve efficiency by allowing newly appointed officers to operate with proper authorisation from the day they started work instead of waiting for the following Licensing Committee date. In addition, existing officers would be able to exercise additional or varied powers from the commencement date of the originating legislation.

The Committee considered the need for the delegation of this function to an officer and supported it.

RECOMMENDED – that the Licensing Committee delegate the function of authorising officers to exercise powers of entry, investigation and enforcement, under the Licensing Act 2003, to the Director of Regulatory Services.

RESOLVED ITEMS**97 MINUTES**

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION98 PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting of the Public Entertainments Licensing Sub-Committee held on 17 May 2005 be received.

99 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 1 June 2005 be received.

100 UPDATE ON APPLICATIONS FOR PREMISES AND PERSONAL LICENCES UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

A report was submitted by the Director of Regulatory Services informing the Licensing Committee about premises with applications for premises licences currently under consideration and numbers of personal and premises licences issued.

The most up to date figures were given and Members were informed that the latest hour applied for so far was 1 am on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

In addition, Members were informed that the percentage of licences applied for, of those which would be needed, compared well with other authorities. The volume of applications was expected to increase as the next deadlines of 7 August (last date for 'grandfather' rights to be exercised) and 24 November 2005 (the 'second appointed day' approached). The licensed trade were being encouraged to make their applications as soon as possible by the Community Protection Section.

The Committee agreed that the report be received.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

ACTION101 TRAINING

The Chairman had agreed that this item on training be included on the agenda as urgent business on the grounds that it would be in the interests of the efficiency of the service provided by the Licensing Sub-Committee to consider it.

Members were informed that additional training sessions would be provided for those Members who had been unable to attend previously. Any Members who felt that they needed to attend again were invited to do so.

In addition, the Chairman emphasised his belief in the need for all Members to attend at least two hearings and study the summary procedure for meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee before they were appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee.

Moreover, he would be taking part in a night time economy tour to improve his knowledge of the licensed trade in the towns during the evening, night and early hours of the morning. He encouraged other Members to do the same.

A Member commented that tours of this kind, which were run by the Police, were very enlightening and felt Council officers should liaise with the Police on them to ensure maximum value was obtained from them. He thought visiting towns in the early evenings when young teenagers were out and about was also an eye opening experience.

The Chairman urged caution when dealing with the press if Members were asked for comments on decisions of the Licensing Sub-Committee. Members thought legal advice should be sought on this.

The Committee agreed with the training suggested for Members of the Licensing Committee.

RESOLVED – that (A) all Members of Licensing Committee attend training sessions and meetings of

ACTION

Committee attend training sessions and meetings of the Sub-Committee before being selected for membership of a Sub-Committee and,

(B) legal advice be sought on comments to the press from Members on the decisions of the Sub-Committee and whether Members' reasons for approval as well as refusal should be included in the Minutes of the meeting.

DCG

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Chairman
Date