

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE
2007 AT 4.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M P A McMullen (Chairman).
Councillors D Andrews, W Ashley, P R Ballam,
K A Barnes, A L Burlton, J Demonti, Mrs D M Hone,
N C Poulton, P A Ruffles, J J Taylor, R I Taylor and
B M Wrangles.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Chris Clowes	- Community Protection Manager (Enforcement)
Paul Newman	- Community Protection Manager (Process)
George Robertson	- Head of Legal Services
Jan Spong	- Head of Community Safety

59 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of
Councillor R Beeching.

60 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor P R Ballam declared a personal interest in
relation to Minute 63 (The Licensing Act 2003 – Update for
information on premises, licences and club premises
certificates, appeals, reviews and temporary events
notices) by virtue of the fact that she was a Member of
Ware Town Council.

RESOLVED ITEMSACTION61 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committees held on 10 April 2007 (am and pm) and 27 April 2007 be received.

63 THE LICENSING ACT 2003 - UPDATE FOR INFORMATION ON PREMISES LICENCES AND CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATES, APPEALS, REVIEWS AND TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES

The Head of Community Safety reported on cases dealt with under the Licensing Act up to May 2007.

Clarification was sought and provided concerning the withdrawal of the application at "Sky" Amwell End, Ware. Assurances were provided that late night refreshment places were being run in accordance with licensing regulations.

The Committee agreed to receive the report.

RESOLVED - that the report be received.

64 THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY GROUP

A presentation was provided by the Head of Community Safety about the workings of the Night Time Economy Group in terms of its composition as a multi agency partnership and terms of reference. The Head of Community Strategy commented that the Group was aligned to the Community Strategy and reported to the Crime and Disorder Partnership Group. Actions Plans had

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been produced covering specific areas of East Herts. Some of the initiatives covered, including the Taxi Marshalling scheme and “Behave or be Banned” were explained.

The Head of Community Safety commented that Officers reviewed information from the Joint Action Group and fed this back to the Night Time Economy Group. Updates from the Night Time Economy Group would be provided to Licensing Committee on a regular basis. It was noted that the Crime and Disorder Partnership Group had recently agreed to support a proposal by the Police to introduce a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) which would ban the consumption of alcohol in public places and provide the Police with powers of confiscation and should help with anti-social behaviour. A video by the Police of some of the areas in Hertford was shown.

Clarification was sought and provided on the scope of the DPPO and what this would mean for some areas of Hertford. The impact of the imminent introduction of “No Smoking” particularly in pubs was discussed.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

65 LICENSING ACT 2003 – PROCEDURES, PROTOCOLS AND GENERAL ISSUES.

The Head of Community Safety referred to the strong links between the Council, the Police and other partners in terms of enforcing the Licensing Act 2003. She commented on training requirements for Members and commented that this could be held on 21 June 2007.

The Chairman commented that it would be useful for new Members to arrange to attend a meeting of a Sub Committee to watch and learn (but not if an application fell within a Member’s Ward) in view of its quasi-judicial capacity. The Chairman requested that all Members be forwarded summaries of each procedure and a copy of the

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Chairman’s Statement.

The Head of Legal Services advised Members to be careful with comments to the press especially in relation to licensing applications. Any requests for comment should be referred to the Council’s Press Officer. He commented that very few appeals were made against the Council. Overall decisions were consistent and well founded.

Members referred to the Smoking Ban to be introduced shortly in all public places. It was noted that this would be one of the subjects to be discussed at the next round of community Voice Meetings.

RESOLVED - that (A) the report be received; and

(B) summaries for each of the procedures and a copy of the Chairman’s statement be forwarded to all Members of the Licensing Committee.

DNS

The meeting closed at 5.55 pm.

Chairman
Date