

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY,
5 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 4.30 PM

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor P A Ruffles

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Chris Clowes	- Licensing Enforcement Manager
Jan Spong	- Head of Community Safety

373 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that Jan Spong, Head of Community Safety would be leaving the Authority. She was thanked for her work by the Licensing Committee. In response she thanked the Committee and its Chairman for their support.

RESOLVED ITEMS

ACTION

374 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION375 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Members expressed concern that more support was needed at Licensing Sub-Committee meetings from the Police. Officers explained there had been some changes to Police staff in Bishop's Stortford and suggested the Members of the Licensing Committee could be invited to the Night Time Economy Group to discuss this with the Police.

RESOLVED - that (A) the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 11 July, 14 July, 24 July, 6 August, 12 August, 19 August, 3 September, 18 September, 24 September 14 October and 17 October 2008 be received; and

(B) Members of the Licensing Committee be invited to the Night Time Economy Group to discuss support at Licensing Sub-Committee meetings offered by the Police.

DNS

376 LICENSING ACT 2003, GAMBLING, SEX SHOP AND TAXI LICENSING : UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing statistical information on the various licences issued by the Council under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling, Sex Shop and Taxi Licensing.

Members raised concerns over taxi drivers parking on the pedestrianised area of Bircherley Green. A few examples had been considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee. The Licensing Enforcement Manager commented that the Committee's decision to issue warning letters had been very successful in deterring taxi drivers from parking in the area. The Chairman added that further legal advice would be sought on further action the Licensing Sub-Committee should take in these circumstances.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

ACTION

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

377 PUBWATCH SCHEMES IN EAST HERTS

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the Pubwatch Schemes in Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford.

It was reported that Pubwatch was a forum for licensed premises owners, designated supervisors and managers to meet and discuss with the Police and other agencies issues such as Crime and Disorder, Banning Orders, Town Radio Links and other issues. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Town Watch Co-ordinators (Police appointments) and Licensing Enforcement Officer attended regularly.

The Licensing Enforcement Manager reported that Banning Orders were working well in Hertford and Ware but most of the orders in Bishop's Stortford had expired. He said that including attendance at the Pubwatch meetings as a condition on licensed premises had been successful.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

378 LICENSING ENFORCEMENT - 1 JANUARY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2008

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on compliance and enforcement activities in respect of premises licensed for the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshments, licences for hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators and smoking and gambling legislation.

ACTION

The Licensing Enforcement Manager commented that bringing taxi licensing cases to the Licensing Sub-Committee had had a good effect on the behaviour of taxi drivers. Enforcement work on licensed premises could be concentrated on problem areas in the future.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

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