

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY, 4
NOVEMBER 2009 AT 4.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor M P A McMullen (Chairman).
Councillors P R Ballam, K Barnes, R H Beeching,
A L Burlton, Mrs R F Cheswright, J Demonti,
N C Poulton, R A K Radford, P A Ruffles,
J J Taylor, R I Taylor, N Wilson and
B M Wrangles.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Chris Clowes	- Licensing Enforcement Manager
Paul Newman	- Licensing Process Manager

346 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of
Councillor W. Ashley.

RECOMMENDED ITEM

ACTION

347 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – NO CASINOS RESOLUTION

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted a
report on making a “no casinos” resolution as a result
of a request from the Licensing Committee.

A decision on making such a resolution had to be
made by the Council and not the Licensing Committee.
It had to apply to casinos generally in the District. The
resolution would have a duration of three years and be
published in the Council’s Licensing Policy Document.

There were currently no casinos in the District and Officers were not aware of any intention to make an application for one. The Licensing Enforcement Officer reported that Members would need to give reasons for making the resolution. He referred to medical evidence that excessive gambling could affect physical and mental health as well as leading to debt.

The Committee was minded to ask the Council to pass a “no casino” resolution for a variety of reasons. These included the effect of gambling on the health and wellbeing of residents and increasing debt. Members felt the towns in the District were not large enough for a casino and did not need one on grounds of regeneration. In addition, such facilities were available in Luton.

The Committee decided to ask the Council to pass a “no casino” resolution and the Head of Community Safety to agree the exact wording of the reasons for this in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

RECOMMENDATION – that (A) a “no casinos” in East Hertfordshire policy be approved; and

(B) the reasons for (A) above be worded by the Head of Community Safety in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee in accordance with the reasons discussed at the Licensing Committee meeting.

(The wording of the reasons is attached at Appendix A to these minutes)

RESOLVED ITEMS

ACTION

348 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record

ACTION

and signed by the Chairman.

349 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 13 July, 13 August, 3 September and 1 October 2009 be received.

350 ATTENDANCE AT LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

The Director of Internal Services submitted a report on details of Members' attendance at Licensing Sub-Committees.

The Members commented on problems that some of them had in attending meetings or training because of other commitments. Members asked the Committee Secretary to ensure that all Members were given adequate time to respond to invitations to attend meetings to ensure a fair allocation of duties.

RESOLVED - that the report be received.

351 LICENSING UPDATES

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported on proposals to change reporting on licensing updates.

The Committee commented on the need to receive these updates at every Committee meeting, including information on enforcement and decided to ask Officers to prepare reports for four month periods.

RESOLVED – that Officers be asked to report licensing updates including enforcements for periods of four months and submit these to every meeting of the Licensing Committee.

DNS

ACTION

352 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – RESPONSES TO
CONSULTATION ON REVISION OF STATEMENT OF
LICENSING PRINCIPLES

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that there had been no response to consultations on the revision of the statement of licensing principles. The Committee had considered the changes at a previous meeting.

The Committee had discussed asking the Council to make a “no casino” resolution and noted that if the Council decided to make this resolution the statement would be amended accordingly. It decided to approve the publication of the Statement subject to this amendment if needed.

RESOLVED – that the publication of the revised Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gaming Act 2005 be approved with the inclusion of a “no casino” resolution if it is approved by the Council.

DNS

353 LICENSING ACT 2003 – MINOR VARIATIONS

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported on changes to the Licensing Act 2003 to provide a new process for minor variations. He asked the Committee to delegate these decisions to the Licensing Process Manager.

The Licensing Process Manager explained the matters covered by these minor variations.

The Committee decided to approve the delegation.

RESOLVED - that the Licensing Process Manager be given delegated authority to approve or refuse minor variations.

DNS

ACTION

354 REVIEW OF TAXI LICENSING CONDITIONS –
WORKING PARTY OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported on a review of taxi licence conditions and proposed the formation of a working party of Members and Officers for this.

The Licensing Process Manager explained that it was hoped a review of conditions would lead to clearer policies which Officers could follow without referring matters to Licensing Sub-Committees.

The Committee expressed concern that certain matters such as convictions should be considered by a Sub-Committee and were assured this would continue.

The Committee decided to appoint the Members now detailed to a working party to review taxi licensing conditions.

RESOLVED - that Councillors P R Ballam, Mrs R F Cheswright, M P A McMullen, J J Taylor, R I Taylor and N Wilson be appointed to a Member and Officer working party to review taxi licensing conditions.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Chairman
Date