

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON MONDAY 28 JANUARY  
2013, AT 10.00 AM

---

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs R Cheswright (Chairman).  
Councillors W Ashley and R Beeching.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, M McMullen and  
P Ruffles.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Mannings	- Democratic Services Officer
Brian Mole	- Joint Community Safety Co- ordinator
Paul Newman	- Licensing Manager
George Robertson	- Legal Services Manager
Brian Simmonds	- Head of Community Safety and Health Services
Garry Wallace	- Environmental Health Officer

30 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor W Ashley and seconded by Councillor R Beeching that Councillor Mrs R Cheswright be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs R Cheswright be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

31 MINUTES – 2 OCTOBER 2012

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2012, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 LICENSING ACT 2003 – LICENSING ACT 2003  
(HEARINGS) REGULATIONS 2005 (AS AMENDED) –  
APPLICATION FOR A REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE,  
FOR “STANDON CALLING” AT STANDON LORDSHIP,  
BARWICK ROAD, STANDON, HERTS, SG11 1PR

The Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed. All those present for the review application were introduced. The Interim Licensing Manager advised the Sub-Committee that Hertfordshire Police, in their capacity as a responsible authority, had applied for a review of the premises licence for the music festival known as ‘Standon Calling’ at Standon Lordship, Barwick Road, Standon.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the police had applied for a review on the basis of poor management of ‘Standon Calling’, and also on the basis that, with the exception of the protection of children from harm, the four licensing objectives were not being upheld by the premises license holder.

The Licensing Manager confirmed that 37 of the representations received from the public were in support of the music festival. A petition supporting the festival had also been received. Members were advised that there was a significant level of local support for ‘Standon Calling’ and this was on the basis of the economic and social benefits of the festival, as well as the funds that were generated for charity.

The Licensing Manager stated that eight representations had been received in support of the review application, on the basis of noise and traffic disturbance. One of these representations had made a specific requested for a

midnight curfew.

Members were advised that the festival organisers had previously been prosecuted by Environmental Health for three counts of breaching noise conditions.

Environmental Health Officers were now satisfied that any further noise issues could be addressed by the existing conditions on the premises licence.

The Licensing Manager referred to a set of conditions that had been the subject of negotiation between the police and the premises license holder. Members were advised that there appeared to be a broad agreement on most of these conditions as an alternative to the revocation of the premises license.

The Barrister for the Police stated that, whilst Hertfordshire Constabulary recognised the happiness the event brought to the community, their overriding concern was ensuring any future festival was safe and secure for all users and the wider community.

The police barrister advised that, when compared to previous years, something had changed regarding the 2012 event that had led to police resources being called in from as far as Watford to ensure public safety. Officers were of the opinion that an organised group of offenders had attended the festival and had gained easy access to what had been an unsecured site.

Members were referred to the police statements in the agenda papers for a detailed breakdown of the concerns of police officers called in to police the event in 2012.

The police barrister commented that there were in fact two premises licences for this event, one in the name of 'Standon Calling' and a second licence in the name of the premises license holder. Members were advised that the second licence must be surrendered to ensure effective enforcement of the agreed conditions.

Councillor R Beeching was assured that the issue of noise was enforceable via the existing conditions and any breaches could result in further environmental health prosecutions. He was also assured that all areas of water within the festival site would be fenced off. The Environmental Health Officer confirmed that two lifeguards on duty in the vicinity of the fenced off swimming pool on the festival site would be sufficient.

The barrister for the premises license holder acknowledged that a number of people had breached the boundary fence at the 2012 festival. There had also been a number of people who had taken advantage of a lower ticket price on the Friday evening.

Members were advised that ticket pricing had been reviewed and the prices would not be lowered for any one day of the festival. Members were also advised that there had been a 20% increase in security for the 2013 festival and better fencing had been installed.

The premises license holder was in agreement with the police in respect of the circulated conditions as an alternative to the revocation of the license. Members were advised however that, from a purely legal standpoint, the Sub-Committee could not delegate its decision making powers to the Safety Advisory Group.

The barrister for the premises license holder suggested an amendment to condition six that, in the event there was no agreement, the premises license holder had a right of appeal to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Members were advised that the premises license holder was happy to comply with providing all of the event management subsidiary documents suggested by the police. The applicant had also agreed to surrender the premises licence held in his own name.

The premises license holder was fully satisfied that he was capable of ensuring the 'Standon Calling' festival was

well managed in future. Members were assured that the site would be secured and the family areas of the site would be better segregated in future.

Councillor R Beeching stated that the police were in a position to monitor the twitter and facebook traffic in the run up to the 'Standon Calling' festival. The barrister for the premises license holder confirmed that the festival had a twitter account and this could be used to regulate numbers in future.

The Sub-Committee Chairman commented on what was meant in the hazardous evacuation plan in terms of an area of safety within the boundary of the festival site. Members were advised that, in the event of an emergency, it would prove safer to evacuate to a designated safe area within the site rather than evacuate the site as a whole.

The Sub-Committee Chairman queried the nature of the music played on the Friday in 2012 when a majority of the problems had occurred. The premises license holder stated that there had been a new sub-promoter appointed to play predominantly dance music on the night in question. Members were advised that the promoter that had made this arrangement would not be working with the festival in future.

Two local residents addressed the Sub-Committee in support of 'Standon Calling'. The first stated that the music festival had proved to be a more positive experience than some of the larger corporate festivals such as Glastonbury. The 2012 event had unfortunately been marred by a number of isolated incidents and the event, along with other festivals, may have been viewed as a soft touch by those who had stolen items from festival goers.

The second resident commented that he had not seen any evidence of the problems and issues referred to in the police statements. 'Standon Calling' was a popular

event that provided an opportunity for young bands to springboard their musical careers.

The Sub-Committee was advised that if a proper event management strategy was in place, there was no reason why the event should not go ahead in 2013. Members were advised that no problems had been experienced that had made residents feel their families were at risk when attending previous festivals on this site.

Councillor D Andrews, as the local ward Member, stated that the festival enjoyed local support and was very much part of the calendar as far as Standon was concerned. He praised the sensible approach being adopted by the police and the premises license holder and he referred to the board agreement that had been reached in respect of the conditions.

At the conclusion of the representations the Sub-Committee withdrew with the Legal Services Manager and the Democratic Services Officer to consider the evidence.

Following this, they returned and the Chairman announced the decision of the Sub-Committee. Members had listened to the comments of the police and the premises license holder and had decided to proceed on the basis of the agreed conditions as an alternative to revocation of the license. Condition six of the agreed conditions should be amended to include the following wording:

‘In the event there is no agreement, the premises license holder has a right of appeal to the Licensing Sub-Committee’.

The Licensing Sub-Committee commended the police and the premises license holder for their hard work in reaching an agreement in respect of the conditions.

RESOLVED – that (A) the premises licence be

amended to reflect the conditions as agreed between the Police and the Premises Licence Holder as an alternative to the revocation of the license; and

(B) Condition six of the agreed conditions should be amended to include the following wording:

‘In the event there is no agreement, the premises license holder has a right of appeal to the Licensing Sub-Committee’.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am

Chairman .....
Date .....