

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2013,
AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs R Cheswright (Chairman).
Councillors Mrs D Hone and M McMullen.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lorraine Blackburn	- Democratic Services Officer
Paul Newman	- Licensing Manager
George Robertson	- Legal Services Manager

41 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs D Hone and seconded by Councillor M McMullen 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.

42 MINUTES – 13 FEBRUARY 2013

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43 APPLICATION BY RONTEC (WATFORD) LIMITED TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE PL0 137 FOR WIDBURY HILL SERVICE STATION, WIDBURY HILL WARE SG12 7AS

The Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed. All those present for the application vary the premises licence were introduced.

The Licensing Manager advised the Sub-Committee of the details of the application, stating that an amendment to the proposals had been received concerning opening hours. The Licensing Manager summarised the application as now amended.

The Solicitor, on behalf of the applicant, who was also present at the meeting, provided a breakdown of the new proposed hours and summarised which conditions the applicant wished to remove. He assured Members that the condition requiring alcohol not to be sold in an open container or to be consumed on licensed premises would continue. The new conditions detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report now submitted would remain in place. The Licensing Manager advised that, prior to the amended conditions, there had been an objection from the Fire Service, but they were now satisfied with the amended application.

The Licensing Manager advised that three objections had been received to the application on the grounds of disturbance. An objector was present at the meeting and provided the Licensing Sub-Committee with a summary of his concerns. These related to the premises being open 24 hours a day with alcohol being opened by persons leaving the premises and associated problems of debris and disturbance. He noted the proposed amended opening times.

The Solicitor for the applicant suggested that following the removal of the proposal of 24 hour opening, there were now no objections to the application. He stated that the conditions had been drafted with regard to the Licensing Act, the Secretary of State's Guidance and the Council's own Licensing Policy.

The Solicitor for the applicant was confident that, should the application be approved, the premises would not cause a problem. He acknowledged the concerns regarding alcohol being sold in petrol stations and stated

that there was no evidence to link this with drink driving offences.

Councillor Mrs D Hone sought clarification regarding the number of staff having Personal Licences for the sale of alcohol. The Solicitor for the applicant confirmed that all cashiers would be trained and advised that the "Challenge 25" policy would be introduced.

At the conclusion of 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.

The Sub-Committee had carefully considered the amended application and was happy to agree that conditions (A) – (D) on page 12 of the report now submitted, be removed, and required that the condition requiring alcohol not to be sold in an open container or be consumed on the premises, continue. The Sub-Committee also wished the conditions detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report, to apply. On this basis, the Sub-Committee approved the amended application.

Lastly, the Sub-Committee asked that from a disturbance viewpoint, the situation be monitored and that if there were any concerns, these be raised with the Manager of the Petrol Station directly. In conclusion, the Sub-Committee advised that if there were problems, then the matter could be brought back to the Sub-Committee for further consideration.

RESOLVED – that the application, as amended, be approved.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am

Chairman
Date