

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON FRIDAY 31 MAY 2013, AT
2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Alan Warman (Chairman).
Councillors K Crofton and Mrs D Hone.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Mannings	- Democratic Services Officer
Paul Newman	- Licensing Manager
George Robertson	- Legal Services Manager

7 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor K Crofton and seconded by Councillor Mrs D Hone that Councillor A Warman be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

RESOLVED – that Councillor A Warman be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

8 LICENSING ACT 2003 S105 – CONSIDERATION OF A POLICE OBJECTION NOTICE FROM HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY TO A TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICE AT REDRICKS LAKE, REDRICKS LANE, SAWBRIDGEWORTH

The Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed. All those present were introduced. The Licensing Manager advised the Sub-Committee of the details of the Temporary Event Notice (TEN) application at Redricks Lake, Sawbridgeworth. An objection to the TEN had been received from the Police on the grounds of public safety.

Members were advised that the Sub-Committee had delegated powers to consider objection notices in respect of TENs, and to determine whether or not to issue a counter notice to the TEN.

The Licensing Manager concluded that, if a counter notice was issued, this would invalidate the TEN and licensable activities could not take place. The Sub-Committee was not in a position to attach conditions when considering such applications.

A Police Officer stated that the police objection centred on ensuring public safety as the marquee was in close proximity to a lake. The Police Officer stated that she had encouraged the site owner to liaise with them so that Officers could ensure public safety.

In response to a comment from Councillor K Crofton, the Police Officer stated that, although she had now received copies of photos from the site owner, she remained concerned in respect of public safety. In response to a query from Councillor Mrs D Hone, the owner of the site confirmed that the access road was 850 metres long.

The Events Manager for Redricks Lake explained that the owner had made a substantial investment to ensure this was a good venue, including the access road, which was now accessible all year round.

Members were advised that fencing was now in place and the delays in completing this work had been due to the poor condition of the ground around the lake during the snow and cold weather earlier in the year.

The Sub-Committee was advised that qualified lifeguards were often on site and the stewards were all qualified swimming coaches as the venue was used for open water swimming and triathlons. The access road was located well away from Redricks Lake and was similar to many unlit country lanes and was boarded by farmers' fields. There were also no ditches adjacent to the roadway.

The Events Manager concluded that the approaches to the lake were shallow slopes and the lake itself was shallow. The site owner explained that the marquee had emergency lighting in case of power loss and floodlighting was available on site. There had been no incidents of people falling into the lake despite many events taking place at Redricks Lake.

At the conclusions 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.

The Sub-Committee had listened to the comments of the Police and the owner of Redricks Lake and had decided to make no resolution and allow the event to go ahead in accordance with the Temporary Event Notice. The Sub-Committee was satisfied with the public safety arrangements and commented that East Herts Council was “pro business” and supported well run businesses.

RESOLVED – that the Sub-Committee makes no resolution and allows the event to go ahead in accordance with the Temporary Event Notice.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Chairman
Date