

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **Tuesday 9th October 2007** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(12.00 noon – 1.20 pm)

Present:

Members: Nigel Mermagen (In the Chair)

Dave Bulmer	Peter Roake
John Vincent Chainey	Keith Ronaldson
John Hann	Alan Smith
Roy Mills	Linda Vijeh
David Recardo	

Officers:

Julia Bradburn	Principal Licensing Officer
Angela Oxenbury	Committee Administrator
Laurence Willis	Head of Environmental Health and Community Protection

At the beginning of the meeting, members of the Committee joined the Chairman in congratulating the Principal Licensing Officer on the organisation of the recent Licensing Fair. All those who had attended agreed that it had been a great success and hoped it would become an annual event.

12. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 7th August and 29th August, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tony Fife, Martin Wale, Lucy Wallace and William Wallace.

14. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

15. Statement of Licensing Policy (Agenda Item 4)

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the revised Statement of Licensing Policy and reported that no objections had been received. Therefore it was proposed to recommend to the District Executive and Full Council that the Policy be approved.

RESOLVED: that District Executive and Full Council be recommended to approve Edition 3 of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113

16. Gambling Act 2005 (Agenda Item 5)

The Principal Licensing Officer reported that a number of applications had been submitted for premises licences and gaming machine permits and no objections had been received. She informed the Committee that 150 people had attended seminars that had been organised for village halls and other premises. The software had been purchased but not all the relevant forms had been provided by Government. There was a concern that many people were unaware of the Act and much was being done to provide information, particularly through press articles.

The Principal Licensing Officer said enforcement of the Act may be difficult especially as both the Gambling Commission and the Police had limited resources.

The Principal Licensing Officer advised that information sheets on the Gambling Act were to be sent to members.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113

17. Charities Act 2006 (Agenda Item 6)

The Principal Licensing Officer reported that the changes to the Charities Act had made it more effective. The Act required that all collections including those by street collectors be regulated by permit. She said the Council's Legal team were reviewing the powers currently delegated to Yeovil Town Council as the Act specifically mentioned Unitary, Borough and District Councils as the administering authority.

As the Act would not be implemented until 2009, the Chairman urged members to lobby their MP to ask that the power of the town councils to issue charity collection permits be retained.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113

18. Taxi Rank Audit and Update (Agenda Item 7)

The Principal Licensing Officer advised the Committee that the audit had tried to establish when each taxi rank had been designated and whether they were compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and that the signage and road markings were correct. She said a number of errors had been found in the taxi ranks and the originating orders and it was proposed to ask the Area Committees to update these.

With regard to the Stars Lane taxi rank in Yeovil, the Principal Licensing Officer proposed that 10 to 12 evening only spaces be provided at the top of the car park. She confirmed that the Fire Brigade and Police were happy with this arrangement. Discussions had taken place with the developer of the Somerfield site in Yeovil regarding the seven spaces outside the premises. A meeting with Highways was to take place to agree whether other spaces could be utilised in the vicinity.

The Principal Licensing Officer explained that Waitrose had not agreed to the retention of the taxi rank in the car park in Crewkerne, therefore other spaces were being sought in the town.

The Principal Licensing Officer confirmed that the costs involved in the work would be offset by contributions from the developers concerned.

Members noted the proposed amendments and agreed that the Area Committees be asked to update the orders as necessary.

RESOLVED: that the relevant Area Committee be recommended to update the taxi rank orders as indicated in the report and agree the relocation of taxi ranks as required.

Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113

19. Operation Relentless (Agenda Item 8)

The Principal Licensing Officer briefed members on the outcome of Operation Relentless that took place on 24th August. During the two operations in Yeovil and Chard and Crewkerne, Licensing officers joined with officers from the Police, Trading Standards and the Fire Service and Police Community Support Officers to investigate various aspects of the night-time economy. This included under-age sales of alcohol and compliance with conditions for hackney carriage drivers and private hire vehicles.

She explained that the police-led operation had been confidential and members were deliberately not informed that it would be taking place. 200 to 300 people had been involved and it might be difficult to provide feedback. However, the Principal Licensing Officer agreed to pass on to the police the suggestion from members that feedback be given on the outcomes of Operation Relentless.

In response to a member's question regarding overtime payments to officers, the Head of Environmental Health and Community Protection confirmed that the service endeavoured to be cost-neutral but because some premises were not open until later in the evening, inevitably overtime was involved.

The Principal Licensing Officer agreed that local intelligence in such operations was important and if members had concerns regarding premises in their wards they should inform the Licensing team for the inclusion of the premises in the next operation.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113

20. Items for Future Meetings (Agenda Item 9)

It was noted that the following items would be brought to the 4th December 2007 committee:

- A report on how the Licensing Sub-Committee rota is working
 - Taxi fare increase
 - Film location licences
 - Insulin and diabetes policy for taxi drivers
 - Annual fees for skin piercing and tattoos
 - More stringent tests for hackney carriage drivers
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21. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 10)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Licensing Committee would take place on Tuesday 4th December at 10am in the Main Committee Room , Brympton Way.

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Chairman