

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **Tuesday 7th August 2007** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00 am – 10.35 am)

Present:

Members: Nigel Mermagen (In the Chair)

John Vincent Chainey	Alan Smith
Tony Fife	Linda Vijeh
David Recardo	Martin Wale
Keith Ronaldson	

Officers:

Bob Gillis	Democratic Services Manager
Julia Bradburn	Principal Licensing Officer
Lyn Lockyer	Committee Administrator

5. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 6th February, Monday 12th March and Thursday 17th May 2007 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

6. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors John Hann, Roy Mills, Lucy Wallace and William Wallace

7. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman welcomed new members of the Licensing Committee to their first meeting. He confirmed that all members of the Committee had attended the required training and encouraged all, but in particular new members to participate in sub committees when scheduled in order to put into practice the recent learning.

8. Licensing Sub-Committee 2007/8 Membership and Delegation (Agenda Item 4)

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report. Cllrs Roy Mills and Linda Vijeh were appointed as sub committee chairmen and all members were asked to agree the rota and note the dates of scheduled sub committee hearings.

In discussion

- members were in full agreement that the rota was an excellent idea.
- They requested that as much notice as possible be given to any cancelled meeting (ie at least 7 days)

- If it was necessary to hold a hearing where a number of members of the public would be in attendance the scheduled room bookings may need to be altered accordingly
- The Principal Licensing Officer said that there may be infrequent occasions when due to restricted time limits and legalities of hearing dates it would be necessary to call an additional hearing but assured members that this would be avoided where possible.

RESOLVED that

- (1) that the Sub-Committee of three members be re-constituted for the municipal year 2007/8 to determine the following matters:
 - Licensing Act 2003 Applications in accordance with the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
 - Gambling Act 2005 Applications in accordance with the Council's Statement of Gambling Principles
 - Taxi Licences which officers refer to members in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation
 - Pet Establishment licences and registrations, which officers refer to members in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation.
- (2) that all members of the Committee be appointed to serve on the Licensing Sub-Committee on a rota basis.
- (3) that the Democratic Services Manager be given delegated authority to select three Members to serve on the Sub-Committee for each meeting in accordance with the circulated rota arrangements.
- (4) that Councillors Mermagen, Wale, Fife, Mills and Vijeh be appointed as chairmen for the Sub-Committee meetings.
- (5) that the Scheme of Delegation for Licensing Act 2003 Applications and the Gambling Act 2005 be confirmed as attached as Appendices A and B to this report.

Bob Gillis, Democratic Services Manager 01935 462563

9. Statement of Licensing Policy (Agenda Item 5)

The Principal Licensing Officer presented her report and issued a further revised Statement of Licensing Policy. She explained that in order to make the Policy more concise and accessible anything that was contained in the guidelines was no longer in the policy. She confirmed that Ward Members were now able to make an objection on behalf of constituents providing objections were received in writing from the objector.

RESOLVED that the proposed revisions to the Licensing Policy be supported and that subject to any further necessary amendments as a result of the consultation process, the policy be recommended to full Council for approval.

Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113

10. Items for Future Meetings (Agenda Item 6)

Members requested that the following items be brought to the October 2007 committee meeting with a written report in each case:

- Gambling Act
 - Statement of Licensing Policy
 - Operation Relentless
 - Taxi Rank Audit
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11. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 7)

Members agreed the change of meeting date from October 2nd to October 9th.and to meet at 12 noon in this instance.

After the close of the meeting the Principal Licensing Officer gave a verbal update on:

- The Gambling Act
- Operation Relentless
- RTE Filming of Biometric Scanning Device
- Taxi Rank Audit
- Publication of Licensing Book co written by SSDC and Taunton Deane Licensing staff
- Sunrise Festival

The Chairman agreed to arrange an informal meeting with Portfolio Holders from Health and Housing and Planning.

The Principal Licensing Officer agreed to contact PC Dave Buckley to arrange a further opportunity for a Night Visit by members as it had been necessary for security reasons to cancel the previous one.

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Chairman