

South Somerset District Council

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **Tuesday 12th February 2013** held at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.)

PRESENT:

Members: Cllr. Tony Fife (Chairman)

Dave Bulmer
Pauline Clarke
Nick Colbert
Jenny Kenton
Tony Lock

Paul Maxwell
David Norris
David Recardo
Linda Vijeh

Officers:

Nigel Marston
Colin Chown
Anne Herridge

Licensing Manager
Licensing Enforcement Officer
Democratic Services Officer

As Cllrs Nigel Mermagen (Chairman) and Martin Wale (Vice Chairman) had given their apologies, it was proposed and seconded that Cllr Tony Fife would take the Chair for the Licensing Committee meeting, all members were unanimous in their agreement.

54. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 9th October 2012, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman Cllr Tony Fife. Various Licensing Sub Committee meetings were also signed by the relevant councillors who had chaired those meetings.

55. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Martin Wale, Roy Mills and Nigel Mermagen.

56. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

57. Public Participation (Agenda Item 4)

Questions/comments from members of the public

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

58. Gambling Statement of Principles (Agenda Item 5)

The Licensing Manager explained that the Licensing Authority had to review the policy document 'Gambling Statement of Principles' every three years, full details were in the agenda report. The draft Statement of Principles was based on advice given by LACORS (Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services).

The first Gambling Act hearing it would be considered shortly by the SSDC Licensing sub Committee.

The Racecourse Association had suggested various points which had been taken on board and considered by SSDC officers.

In response to a member's question, the Licensing Manager confirmed that the Racecourse Association could apply for a licence if they wished to.

Members were unanimous in favour of approving the recommendations as detailed below.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 and the suggested amendments regarding points 2 and 5 made by the Racecourse Association be agreed;
 - (2) That points 1, 2 and 3 made by the Racecourse Association be noted;
 - (3) That the suggested amendment to point 4 made by the Racecourse Association is not made as secondary legislation takes precedence over any policies;
 - (4) That a final Statement of Principles be submitted to Full Council for consideration and approval.

(Voting: Unanimous in favour)

(Nigel Marston, Licensing Manager – 01935 462150)

(nigel.marston@southsomerset.gov.uk)

59. Enforcement Update (Agenda Item 6)

The Licensing Enforcement Officer summarised the report, which updated members on the work of the Licensing Enforcement Team and the various issues that they are currently involved with.

In response to several questions and comments from members the Licensing Enforcement Officer and Licensing Manager replied that:

- There were regular on-going Licensing Act 2005 inspections;
- Seven dates had now been arranged with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary for a Police Officer to join the Licensing Enforcement Officer in taxi and private hire vehicle enforcement checks. Two major enforcement checks would be based at the Lufton Depot and five early morning and late night enforcement checks would be carried out over the next few months. Priority would still be given to any other incident in the area if the attendance of a police officer was required during the time of the checks, the SSDC Officer would either go with them or be dropped off first;

- Any help that members could give towards ensuring that the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) was aware of the need for resources to help with the enforcement checks would be more than welcome;
- The random enforcement inspections made before Xmas on taxi private hire vehicles had been disappointing as the enforcement notices that had been issued were due to taxi drivers not carrying out routine maintenance on their vehicles;
- Since the adoption of a Site Management Agreement (SMA) with the PRFA (Public Fundraising Regulatory Association) regarding face to face charity fundraising commonly known as 'Chuggers' there had been no complaints about them in the area, this was particularly pleasing as SSDC had been at the forefront of highlighting this issue.

Members were content to note the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*(Colin Chown, Licensing Enforcement Officer – 01935 462135)
(colin.chown@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

60. Deregulating Entertainment Licensing – For Information (Agenda Item 7)

The Licensing Manager explained that due to the deregulation of entertainment licensing the Environment Protection Service would probably have more noise complaint incidents to deal with which would at one time have been covered by a licence.

Members in general welcomed the new legislation but wished it could have encompassed more organisations and small gatherings.

NOTED

61. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 8)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Licensing Committee would be held on Tuesday 9th April 2013 at 10.00 a.m. at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

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Chairman