

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JANUARY 2022

Present: Cllrs Jon Andrews (Vice-Chairman), Derek Beer, Susan Cocking, Mike Dyer, Les Fry, Brian Heatley, David Morgan, Emma Parker (Chairman), David Taylor and Kate Wheller

Apologies: Cllrs Paul Harrison, Carole Jones, Cathy Lugg and Julie Robinson

Also present: Mr Wallsgrove (Solicitor for the Applicant), Mr Ojla (Applicant)

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Kathryn Miller (Licensing Officer), Aileen Powell (Team Leader Licensing), Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), John Newcombe (Service Manager, Licensing & Community Safety) and Lara Aintree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory)

19. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

20. Public Participation

There were no statements or questions from Town and Parish Councils or members of the public at the meeting.

21. Renewal of sexual entertainment venue licence for Wiggle

The Licensing Officer presented the application for a renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence for Wiggle in Weymouth.

The application had been advertised as per the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act in the local paper and at the premises. There had been no objections from the responsible authorities but one objection had been received from a member of the public.

The Licensing Officer advised that the premises had held a SEV licence since 2010 and since Mr Ojla took over the licence in 2018 there had been no issues reported to the authority. The committee were advised of the three options available to them in determining the application.

The committee members and the Applicant's Solicitor were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Licensing Officer. The Objectors were not in attendance at the meeting.

The Solicitor was invited to put his case forward on behalf of the Applicant. He advised that this was the first time Mr Ojla had received an objection to this licence. Mr Ojla also had SEV licences in 2 premises in Portsmouth which had been open for approx. 20 years, one in Southampton and one in Bournemouth, his licences had all been granted each and every year. The objectors had not felt any impact from the premises and there was no reason why they should do so in the future.

Questions from the committee members and the Licensing Office were invited for the Solicitor.

All parties were given the opportunity to sum up their case.

22. Delegated powers for urgent revocations or suspensions to taxi licences

The Service Manager Licensing and Community Safety presented the report which sought delegated powers for urgent revocations or suspensions to taxi licences.

He addressed the two recommendations in the report and the reasons behind them. Dorset Council's Constitution delegated powers relating to taxi licensing to the Licensing Committee and or sub-committee and most complaints were dealt with by interview and a report to the sub-committee.

On occasion there were situations when it was necessary for immediate action to be taken, but these were rare and only for very serious matters that could give rise to an unacceptable risk to the public. Authority was sought to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Chair (or vice chair) of the Licensing Committee to immediately suspend or revoke a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire vehicle drivers licence where it was considered necessary in the interest of public safety

The Service Manager Licensing and Community Safety advised that officers had delegated powers under their predecessor councils, and this would bring the same delegations to Dorset Council's new Licensing Policy.

Committee members were invited to ask questions of The Service Manager Licensing and Community Safety.

Proposed by Cllr Andrews, seconded by Cllr Fry.

On being put to the vote the committee were minded to approve the officer's recommendation:

“That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Chair (or vice chair) of the Licensing Committee to suspend or revoke a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire vehicle driver’s licence with immediate effect where it was considered necessary in the interest of public safety and:

That a ‘fast track’ procedure be adopted to re-licence those drivers who had had their licence revoked but had subsequently been found to be fit and proper”.

Decision: The Head of Community and Public Protection confirmed that he had been present throughout the meeting, had listened to the discussion and would approve the recommendation in accordance with the committee’s minded to decision.

23. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

24. **Exempt Business**

The committee retired to make their decision on the application to renew the SEV licence for Wiggle.

Proposed by Cllr Fry, seconded by Cllr Heatley.

Decision: That the press and the public be excluded for the following item(s) in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Proposed by Cllr Andrews, seconded by Cllr Fry

On being put to the vote the committee were minded to approve the renewal of a sexual entertainment venue licence for Wiggle with all the conditions as applied to the previous licence.

Decision: The Head of Community and Public Protection confirmed that he had been present throughout the meeting, had listened to the discussion and would approve the recommendation in accordance with the committee’s minded to decision.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.05 am

Chairman

.....