

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 AUGUST 2023

Present: Cllrs Les Fry, Brian Heatley, and Derek Beer

Also present: S Gardener (Applicant) and S Knight

Also present remotely: Cllr L Wakeling (Weymouth Town Council)

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

Philip Crowther (Legal Business Partner - Regulatory), Aileen Powell (Licencing Team Leader), Laura Goff (Licensing Officer), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and John Miles (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice).

69. Election of Chairman and Statement for the Procedure of the Meeting

Proposed by Cllr Derek Beer, seconded by Cllr Brian Heatley

Decision: that Cllr Les Fry be elected as chairman for the duration of the meeting.

70. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mike Dyer and Andrew Starr, substituted by Cllrs Derek Beer and Brian Heatley.

71. Declarations of Interest

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

72. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

73. New Premises Licence Application – 26 and 27 St Thomas Street, Weymouth

The Licensing Team Leader introduced the report and outlined the updated section 182 guidance, revised times and amended conditions requested from Environmental Health and the Police.

The decision was made that agenda items 5 and 6 would be heard simultaneously due to being similar applications for neighbouring premises; one was described as a daytime café and the other as daytime and evening café.

The Applicant informed the Sub-committee that Number 26 will be a daytime café which will offer bottled beer only inside and no glassware or alcohol outside the premises. Number 27 will be a café in the daytime and in the evening a late-night café where people can have something to eat and a quiet drink. There will be bistro evenings a couple nights a week, with fresh sea food using local produce and no children allowed after 7 pm. The Applicant is a licensee of Hardy's Hophouse with 10 years' experience and there had never been any noise complaints.

She addressed the noise concerns by informing the Sub-committee that only background music would be played through one small speaker at a low level. The premises will be a quiet place for a drink, the sound will not exceed 50 decibels and will not be a night club. There will be signs warning people to respect neighbours and no disposing of glass bottles will be permitted after 9pm. The Applicant conveyed that she had been getting quotes for sound proofing, will ask customers to leave if they are too noisy and there will be a premises dispersal plan for busier nights.

Cllr Wakeling represented Weymouth Town Council objected on the grounds of the Cumulative Impact Policy and noise nuisance. He was pleased to see the changes that had been made to the application such as, CCTV, Challenge 25, and reduction in opening hours. He added that the premises will close at midnight which is when a lot of other premises in the area close and this will impact upon Weymouth Town Centre putting pressure on taxis, food, or people moving to other venues. He requested that the Sub-committee consider conditions around noise.

The Licensing Team Leader advised the Sub-committee that if they were minded to impose conditions relating to noise. Any noise level condition should state where the maximum level should be measured and a time limit for installing a noise meter should be included.

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

74. **Exempt Business**

Proposed by Cllr Brian Heatley, seconded by Cllr Derek Beer.

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).

Decision: To GRANT a Premises Licence with amended hours, together with the usual mandatory conditions, the conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule and the conditions agreed between the applicant, Dorset Police and Environmental Health.

Duration of meeting: 11.00 am - 12.10 pm

Chairman

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