

THE LICENSING ACT 2003 (HEARINGS) REGULATIONS 2005

Rights of a Party

1. A party has the right to attend the hearing and may be represented by any person.
2. A party is entitled to give further information where the authority has asked for clarification.
3. A party can question another party, and/or address the authority, with consent of the authority.

Failure to Attend

4. If the authority is informed a party does not wish to attend, the hearing may proceed in their absence.
5. If a party has not indicated their attendance and fails to attend the hearing may be adjourned if considered in the public interest, or hold the hearing ensuring the party's representation is considered.
6. Where the authority adjourns the hearing it shall notify the parties of the date, time and place.

Procedural Information

7. At the start of the hearing, the authority shall explain the procedure which it proposes to follow and shall consider any request for permission for another person to appear at the hearing.
8. A hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the authority and cross-examination shall not be permitted unless the authority considers that it is required.
9. The authority will allow the parties an equal maximum period of time in which to speak.
10. The authority may require any person behaving disruptively to leave, and may refuse that person to return, but such a person may, before the end of the hearing, submit in writing information they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.

FOOTNOTE:

In relation to all other matters governed by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 any party or their representative may contact the Licensing Department at West Dorset District Council and they will be provided with a full copy of the regulations on request.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

1. At the start of the meeting the Chairman will introduce:
 - the members of the sub-committee
 - the council officers present
 - the parties and their representatives
2. The Chairman will then deal with any appropriate agenda items.
3. The Licensing Officer will be asked to outline the details of the application, including details of any withdrawn representations.
4. The applicant or their representative is then invited to present their case.
5. Committee members will be invited to ask questions.
6. Where appropriate the Responsible Bodies e.g. representatives of Police, Fire Services, Environmental Services or Trading Standards will be invited to address the sub-committee on any relevant representations they may have.
7. The Chairman may then allow an opportunity for questions.
8. The Chairman will ask any person who has made representations, who have already expressed a wish to do so, to address the sub-committee. The sub-committee will have read all the papers before them, including any letters of representation. Members of the public are asked to keep their comments concise and to the point.
9. The Local Ward Member, if present, will be given an opportunity to address the sub-committee.
10. All parties will be given the opportunity to “sum up” their case.
11. The Chairman will ask the Legal Advisor if all relevant points have been addressed before advising all parties present that the sub-committee will withdraw from the meeting to consider its decision in private. The sub-committee will be accompanied by the Democratic Services Officer and the Legal Advisor can be called upon to offer legal guidance.
12. On returning the Chairman will:
 - Notify all those present of the sub-committee’s decision (or indicate when it will be made)

- Give brief details of any conditions attached to the licence approval;
Or
- Outline the reasons for the refusal
- Inform that detailed reasons will follow in writing (unless given on the day)
- Inform those present of their right to appeal to the Magistrates' Court

NOTE

The Chairman may vary this procedure, as circumstances require but will have regard to the rules of natural justice and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.

The meeting will take place in public. However, the public can be excluded from all or part of the meeting where the sub-committee considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the meeting or that part of the meeting, taking place in public.

Under no circumstances must the parties or their witnesses offer the sub-committee information in the absence of the other parties.

The Chairman and the Sub-Committee have discretion whether to allow new information or documents to be submitted and read at the meeting.