

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing & Enforcement Committee

Held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Monday, 24 September 2007

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs C E Drew (Chairman)

Mrs F Newth (Vice Chairman)

D G Atkins

D G Button

Mrs C E Drew

G Godbeer

Mrs P A Graham

S Hall

Mrs M L Hardy

J Humphreys

K C Potter

C Tratt

Apologies:

Councillors:

K D Nicholas

Mrs A E Liverton

The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 10.40 am.

***5 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing & Enforcement Committee held on 11 June 2007, were confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to the additional of Councillor S Hall to those attending.

***6 Government consultation on options for relaxing licensing controls on the supply of alcohol in village halls and other community premises**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal, Licensing and Democratic Services, on consultation by the Government on various options for relaxing or removing the requirements under the Licensing Act 2003, these included that:

- a) a designated premises supervisor to be specified on every premises licence authorising sales of alcohol; and
- b) every sale of alcohol at such premises to be authorised by a personal licence holder, for categories of premises including village halls, church halls, chapel halls and similar community buildings.

Members expressed their concerns over whether some Village Hall Management Committees were appropriate bodies to be responsible for liquor licensing. However, it was noted that village halls could still continue to have a Designated Premises Supervisor under the proposed change to the legislation.

*6 **Government consultation on options for relaxing licensing controls on the supply of alcohol in village halls and other community premises (Cont)**

RESOLVED 1. that the Government be informed of all the four options presented, that option 3 is the most acceptable option, presented subject to the addition of the following safeguards:

a) In a similar way that clubs have to notify the Licensing Authority of a change of secretary those community halls holding Premises Licences should also keep the Licensing Authority updated. It is a problem when dealing with a village hall as the current position is that even though they hold a Premises licence there is no requirement for them to notify change of committee members or even the change of secretary.

b) Where a Community Premises is licensed for the sale of alcohol the committee be required to nominate a person who would be responsible for ensuring that the sale of alcohol on the premises complied with the law. This person would not need to be on the premises when the sales took place or hold a Personal licence. The hall committee would need to ensure that the Licensing Authority was kept up dated with this person's identity.

c) Those Community Premises which do not have a DPS and or personal licence holders supervising the sale of alcohol would only be permitted to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises. No off sales

2. that the Licensing Section send a letter to all Village Halls asking that they notify the Licensing Authority of any changes to their Management Committee or constitution.

(Councillors D G Atkins and G Godbeer declared personal interests as Chairmen of Village Hall Management committees)

*7 **Gambling Act 2005 – Transition Progress**

Consideration was given to the report of the Licensing Manager updating Members on the Council's progress with the transition to the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*8 **Licensing Team statistics update – Licences, premises risk rating and enforcement – Licensing Act 2003 and taxis**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Licensing Officer providing an update on the current number of licences issued, premises risk ratings assessed and the enforcement activity under the Licensing Act 2003 and the current enforcement activity regarding Taxis.

*8 **Licensing Team statistics update – Licences, premises risk rating and enforcement – Licensing Act 2003 and taxis** (Cont)

The Licensing team were congratulated on their work in connection with Premises Risk Rating, which had been introduced to risk rate each licensed premise.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman Date