

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2015

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor R P Lillis Chairman
Councillor S Goss
Councillor B Leaker
Councillor T Hall
Councillor D J Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Legal Manager (Leslie Dolan)
Licensing Manager (I Carter)
Licensing Officer (L Furgalli-Roberts)
Licensing Officer (J Rendell)
Meeting Administrator (A Randell)

LEP1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Parbrook, R Thomas and H Davies.

LEP2 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015

(Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 10 March 2015 (as approved by Full Council on 18 March 2015) – circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 10 March 2015 be noted.

LEP3 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Councillor S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted

LEP4 Public Participation

No member of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

LEP5 Licensing Update Report

(Licensing Update Report – circulated with the Agenda.)

The report was produced to keep the Council's statutory Committee up to date with current arrangements and statistics relating to the Licensing Service.

The Licensing Manager, Ian Carter introduced the item.

The main points raised during the discussion included:-

- Discussion took place on the frequency of the Licensing checks and visits to premises. It was acknowledged that checks were not done as regularly as they perhaps should be.
- There had not been a history of non-compliance in West Somerset, with most issues being resolved by way of conversation. Audit plans for this were being established through the shared service. Work was being done across both Councils to ensure inspections were being done.
- Members requested evidence to be provided of premises visited by Licensing. It was suggested that future update reports should include figures relating to visits by Licensing.
- Discussions took place relating to how Licensing rules were applied in respect of those who were given the responsibility of operating public houses in instances where a landlord was away.
- 'Best Practice Guidance' was provided to public houses that sought to minimise any potential risks to the public in such instances to ensure appropriate cover was maintained when landlords were absent.
- Members gave full support for additional and permanent Licensing Officer resource in Williton. This would provide a Licensing point of contact at West Somerset as well as alleviating concerns from the public.
- The fees charged for Licensing were discussed. The service could not make a profit and assurance was given that fees were set so that they were beyond challenge. The processes which were undertaken towards the setting of fees were detailed.
- Considered if there had been any increase in in the number of licences issued. Broadly speaking the situation was currently static.
- In terms of the amount of door staff used by premises, it was reported that the Security Industry Authority recommended that the individual operators could determine the level of cover required in consultation with the local Police. Door staffing was not a requirement on all licenses.

RESOLVED that the update report be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.23 pm.