

Minutes of a meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE of South Northamptonshire Council held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Springfields, Towcester on Tuesday 20 March 2012 at 5.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor Ann Addison - Chairman
Councillor Robert Atkinson Councillor Andrew Grant
Councillor Judith Baxter Councillor John Kilmister
Councillor Kath Bonner-Dunham Councillor Christopher Lofts
Councillor Carole Clarke Councillor Blake Stimpson
Councillor Janet Eliot Councillor Paul Titchener
Councillor Tony Wilkinson

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Macey - Licensing Team Leader
Emma Faulkner - Democratic & Elections Officer

15. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 September 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. Matters Arising

Councillor Janet Eliot asked if a response had been received regarding payment of invoices by instalments, as referred to in Minute 10 on page LC 5. The Licensing Team Leader reported that Street Traders were the only applicants allowed to pay by instalments, as it was written in to the Council's procedure.

17. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19. An update on Licensing Matters

The Licensing Team Leader presented his report, which gave an update on Licensing Matters since the last meeting.

The report covered:

- Licensing Act
- Gambling Act
- Taxi Licensing
- Silverstone
- Enforcement
- Licensing Hearings
- Policies

In connection with enforcement activity, the Licensing Team Leader reported that an operation had been held in Milton Keynes on 14 March 2012. 45 vehicles had been stopped, 27 of which were sent to the depot for inspection. Of those 27, 20 were vehicles registered with Milton Keynes Council, six with SNC and one with Central Bedfordshire. 18 of the Milton Keynes vehicles failed, and four of the SNC vehicles failed. The SNC failures were related to having a nail in the tyre, not displaying a 'no smoking' sign and faulty lights.

Regarding changes to the Live Music Bill detailed in Appendix 2 to the Licensing Team Leader's report, the Committee asked what would happen in premises that wanted to have live music after 11pm. The Licensing Team Leader explained that in those circumstances individual premises would still need appropriate conditions, and in the event of non-compliance with the conditions sub-Committee hearings could be held.

In connection with the two policies included at Appendices 3 and 4, the Committee asked a number of questions relating to access for inspection for enforcement issues, and which offences were now included on the Home Office list. The Licensing Team Leader agreed to check all the points raised and amend the policies as necessary before they were considered by Cabinet.

The Committee also requested that the annexe references in each document be checked before being referred to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That subject to consultation the Cabinet be recommended to approve the two Policies referred to in the Licensing Team Leader's report, subject to the following amendments:

Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

Paragraph 2.3.1, point b to be amended to make specific reference to Sex Establishment Licences

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Page 27, top of the page – Appendix reference to be corrected to appendix 9

The general Home Office list of offences to be checked, and the relevant pages updated in the Policy as required.

20. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chairman

(The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.)