

At a meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 5TH JUNE, 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mrs. Higgins in the Chair

Councillors Bohill, P. Gibson, Gofton, Grey, J. Heron, Howe, Peter Maddison, T. Martin, J.B. Scott, Trueman, J. Walton, Whalen and Wilson.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Committee's first meeting of the Municipal Year and in particular the newly appointed Members of the Licensing Committee who she believed would find the work both different and interesting.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Richardson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 6th March, 2006

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th March, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

The Gambling Act 2005

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on new powers granted to the Council under the Gambling Act 2005 and on an invitation to visit a local casino received from the British Casino Association who also wished to be consulted on the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

A copy of the draft Statement was circulated for Members information. Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager presented the report and advised that the draft Statement would be issued to consultees later that week.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) the invitation received from the British Casino Association to visit the Casino at North Bridge Street, Sunderland be accepted and that Officers be asked to reply and organise the visit.

Licensing Act 2003 – Amendment to the Gaming Act 1968 with respect to Amusements with Prizes Machines in Premises Licensed for the Sale of Alcohol for Consumption on the Premises

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of changes to the legal framework with regard to Amusements with Prizes Machines and which sought the delegation of powers to the Director of Community and Cultural Services to issue permits where no representations had been received.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager presented the report and advised that the Secretary of State in her guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, recommended that Licensing Authorities issue Section 34 permits in respect of premises licensed for sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises for the use of up to two machines without the need for a hearing. It was therefore proposed that the Director of Community and Cultural Services be given the delegated power to grant or renew applications in that situation. Where permits for more than two machines were sought the Secretary of State recommended that Authorities followed the procedures already adopted in respect of applications for Section 34(5e) permits.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Director of Community and Cultural Services be delegated the power to grant or renew applications for Section 34 permits in respect of premises licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises in respect of applications for the use of up to two machines; and
- (ii) the Licensing Sub-Committee be delegated the power to grant or refuse applications for the grant or renewal of Section 34 permits in respect of premises licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises in respect of applications for the use of three or more machines.

Proposed Members Training Event

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on a proposal to hold a training event on the laws administered by the Licensing Committee given recent legislative changes and the number of new Members of the Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that approval be given to the holding of a training event at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, 15th June, 2006 to be arranged by the Director of Community and Cultural Services, on the laws administered by the Licensing Committee.

(Signed) M. HIGGINS,
Chairman.