

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 19 June 2012 commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Jessie Milne (Chairman - In the Chair)
Councillor Irmgard Parrott (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Richard Doran
Councillor Mel Starkey
Councillor Anne Welburn

In Attendance:

Phil Hinch	Senior Licensing Officer
Jo Riddell	Head of Localism
Lesley Beevers	Environmental Protection Team Leader
Katie Coughlan	Governance and Civic Officer

Apologies : Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Judy Rainsforth

7 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

This being the first meeting of the civic year, the Chairman welcomed all Members and Officers to the meeting.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

There was no public participation.

9 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

(a) Licensing and Regulatory Committee – 5 December 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 5 December 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (b) Licensing and Regulatory Committee – 14 May 2012 (LR.01 12/13)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 14 May 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to Councillor Doran being deleted from those Members cited as present.

10 MINUTES FOR NOTING

- (a) Licensing Sub-Committee - 16 April 2012 (LR.02 12/13)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 16 April 2012 be received and noted.

- (b) Taxi and General Licensing and Sub-Committee – 14 May 2012 (LR.03 12/13)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Taxi and General Licensing Sub-Committee held on 14 May 2012 be received and noted.

12 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 11 JUNE 2012 (LR.04 12/13)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 11 June 2012.

It was noted that all actions had been completed on target.

At the request of the Chairman the Senior Licensing Officer updated Members as to the progress being made by each of the informal Member Policy Development Panels during which the following points were noted: -

With regard to the Gambling Policy Panel; consultation on the Draft Policy had now commenced and would be submitted to Committee at its October meeting and subsequently to full Council for approval and adoption. Furthermore, a replacement Member representative thereon was sought and a nomination duly provided.

With regard to the Taxi and Licensing Policy Panel, progress had been delayed for a number of reasons, including the current ill health of a key member of staff, along with a recent High Court ruling in relation to penalty points systems. The Committee wished Mr Gabey a speedy recovery.

Finally, it was intended to review the Licensing Policy in order that it reflected new legislation, however, there was a view that this should be done

secondary once practical measures were in place to address the recent legislative changes and Members had been trained as to the implications arising therefrom. In closing, Members noted the latter would be the focus of the training session being held at the conclusion of the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) progress on the Matters Arising Schedule as set out in report LR.04 12/13 be noted; and
- (b) Cllr Anne Welburn join the informal Member Policy Development Panel in relation to the Gambling Policy

13 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

14 FOOD, HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN

Members gave consideration to a report which presented the 2012/2013 Food, Health and Safety Service Plan for approval.

In presenting the report to the Committee, the Head of Localism summarised the activity which had been undertaken during 2011/12. It was reported that of the planned inspection programme, only 80% had been completed; the reasons for this were explained in detail and at length to Members.

Members held some concerns around staffing levels within the service and the arising potential risks. Full assurance was offered that all high risk inspections and had been completed and the ways in which it was intended to build capacity and resilience within the Team going forward was summarised.

Furthermore, throughout the 2011/12 year, greater focus and priority had been given to undertaking enforcement activity, using a risk based approach. The rationale for such was again explained to the Committee and was the proposed way forward during 2012/13.

It was noted that the informal Member Policy Development Panel had played an integral part in shaping the Service Plan for 2012/13 and a Member who had served thereon spoke highly as to the invaluable knowledge and information he had gained from the experience and of his support for the proposed resulting Service Plan.

Members showed a keen interest for this way of working to continue and requested that, if considered appropriate, they be allowed to undertake a back to the floor exercise with the Food Inspectors to further expand their knowledge of the service. Officers indicated their agreement and undertook to arrange such an exercise in due course.

Arising from further questions and comments from Members, the Head of Localism explained the new National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, to which the Council had migrated, and outlined the positive impact this was making in driving up standards.

Finally, Members made reference to the national chain which had recently opened a premise within the town and of some issues local residents were reporting in respect of litter and congestion. Officers advised of the positive relations between the company and the Authority and undertook to raise these with the business concerned outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Food, Health and Safety Service Plan be received, noted and approved; and
- (b) a back to the floor exercise with the Food Inspectors be arranged for Members to partake in.

The meeting concluded at 7.29 pm

Chairman

Note: At the conclusion of the meeting Members of the Committee partook in a training session, “Licensing Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011”.