

12 JANUARY 2007

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Friday, 12 January 2007.

p Cllr W H Dow (Chairman)
e Cllr J A G Hutchins (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

p G C Beck
p M H G Fidler
p R C H Hale
p L E Harris
e J M Hoy
p J Penwarden
p L R Puttock

Councillors:

p Mrs B Smith
e A R Tinsley
e M S Wade
p S S Wade
p G M Walmsley
p P R Woods

Officers Attending:

Mrs M Dunsmore and Mrs R Rutins and, for part of the meeting, Mrs D Holmes, A Michel and M Powell.

28. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2006, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with any agenda items.

30. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

31. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2007/08 (REPORT A).

The Committee considered the draft revenue estimates for 2007/08.

Members considered that it would be helpful to receive separate reporting information on public entertainment and liquor licensing as opposed to the current information which included statistics under one joint list.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That it be recommended to the Cabinet that the revenue estimates for 2007/08 be approved; and
- (b) That future financial reports include separate information on public entertainment and liquor licensing.

32. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – FEE SETTING (REPORT B).

The Committee considered delegated powers to set the gambling fees for 2007 under the Gambling Act 2005.

RECOMMENDED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 212 of the Gambling Act 2005, powers be delegated to set the gambling fees for 2007 to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

33. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – CHANGES TO COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

The Committee considered the proposed changes to the Committee's terms of reference which were necessary to facilitate the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

RECOMMENDED:

That the following changes, indicated in bold italics, to the Committee's terms of reference be agreed: -

- 1. To be the licensing committee established by the Council under section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 and to discharge ***the*** licensing ***authority*** functions under that Act ***and the Gambling Act 2005.***
- 2. To keep the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy ***and Statement of Gambling Principles*** under review and recommend changes to the Cabinet and Council.
- 3. To provide regular reports to the Planning Development Control Committee and Review Panels, as appropriate, on the situation regarding licensed premises in the area, including the general impact of alcohol ***and gaming*** related crime and disorder.

34. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/07 AND KEY TARGETS 2007/08 (REPORT C).

The Committee considered key achievements for 2006/07 and key targets for 2007/08.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the assessment of performance against the Committee's 2006/07 targets be agreed and;

- (b) That the proposed SMART targets for 2007/08 as set out in Appendix 2 to Report C to the Committee be agreed.

35. CORPORATE CONSULTATIONS – INCLUDING CITIZENS’ PANEL & YOUNG PEOPLE’S PANEL (REPORT D).

The Committee reviewed the Citizens’ Panel and Young People’s Panel consultations undertaken in 2006/07 and discussed possible topics for questionnaires to be considered for input into the programme for 2007/08.

Some members queried whether the Citizens’ and Young People’s Panels were representative of the District as a whole. Members were informed that recruitment to both Panels was ongoing but it was often difficult to recruit new members. It was noted however, that response rates from both Panels were reasonably high. Members felt that the information obtained from both Panels should be used only as a reference or starting point when making Council decisions and not as a definitive view of residents’ wishes.

The Committee discussed the possibility of commissioning surveys on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 and any decisions taken by the Sub-Committee. The Committee also considered surveying residents following the many District and Parish elections particularly on the effectiveness of proposed activities undertaken by the District Council to promote the elections. However, on balance they felt that this would not be a worthwhile exercise.

RESOLVED:

That bids be made for the use of the Citizens’ Panel with to survey the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 and residents’ awareness and knowledge of their rights under the Licensing Act 2003.

36. ELLINGHAM, HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY PARISH COUNCIL – REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS (REPORT E).

The Committee considered a request to reduce the number of Parish Councillors at Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council from 10 to 8.

It was felt by some members that the number of elections held within Parishes with larger than average numbers of Councillors was few and far between. Small Parishes would have low turnover of Councillors, as it was unlikely that new candidates would come forward when seats had been filled for a number of years. It was therefore considered that in future, the District Council should seek ways to examine the size of Parish Councils in order to generate more elections.

In response to a question, members were advised that the District Council was able to be more prescriptive in setting the sizes of Parish Council but had not done so in the past, preferring to agree to well-reasoned requests put forward by the Parish Councils. A view was expressed that by maintaining the size of Parish and Town Councils at comparatively high levels awarded the need for elections and that this was unhealthy for democracy.

RECOMMENDED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 (2) of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the number of Parish Councillors of Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council be reduced from 10 to 8 with immediate effect.

CHAIRMAN

(GPLC120107)