

10 SEPTEMBER 2021

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held on Friday, 10 September 2021

* Cllr Steve Clarke (Chairman)

* Cllr Neil Tungate (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

Ann Bellows
* Geoffrey Blunden
* Rebecca Clark
Keith Craze
Arthur Davis
* Barry Dunning
* Jacqui England

Councillors:

* David Harrison
* David Hawkins
* Mahmoud Kangarani
* Alvin Reid
Joe Reilly
John Ward

*Present

Officers Attending:

Christa Ferguson, Joanne McClay and Andy Rogers

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bellows, Craze, Davis, Reilly, and J Ward.

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2021 and 15 June 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by any Members in connection with any agenda item.

10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised during the Public Participation period.

11 LICENSING ACT 2003 - DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - REVISION AND CONSULTATION

The Committee considered proposed revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy, together with proposed consultation arrangements.

It was a legal requirement under S5 of the Licensing 2003 Act for the Licensing Authority to review its policy on a five-year basis, unless there were changes that were required mid-term. It was intended that the proposed Draft Policy would be publicised and submitted for consultation, with responses being considered by the

Committee at its meeting in November. The new Policy would cover the period 2022 to 2026.

The statement set out the policy of the licensing authority with respect to carrying out its licensing functions for the sale of alcohol, provision of regulated entertainment and the provision of late-night refreshment under the Act.

The licensing regime implemented by the Act and operated by New Forest District Council as licensing authority was intended to achieve the appropriate control of licensed premises, qualifying clubs and temporary events. It also covered the people who managed these premises or held personal licences within the terms of the Act.

It was suggested that an additional paragraph be added to the policy, in relation to encouraging landlords and their staff to be vigilant and aware of individuals who prey on vulnerable people in pubs and clubs, for example in relation to spiking drinks with spirits or 'date rape drugs'. Staff should be alert and if necessary, check CCTV and inform the police. Whilst it was acknowledged that this aspect was covered in the 2003 Licensing Act by the existing licensing objectives (eg Prevention of Crime and Disorder), and elsewhere, it was felt worth highlighting this as a safeguarding issue. Accordingly, the Committee supported the inclusion of a specific reference to this issue.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the inclusion of the additional paragraph referred to above, the Draft Licensing Act Policy document be agreed for publication, and for the consultation period to run from 12 September 2021 to 6 November 2021.

12 ADOPTION OF REGISTER TO CHECK DRIVER APPLICATIONS

The Committee received details of the with information on the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and & Refusals (NR3) and seeks support on adoption and implementation.

Members noted that, to ensure the safety of the public, the licensing authority performed checks regarding the safety and suitability of drivers as part of the Fit and Proper person test. Adoption of the national register NR3 would provide officers with additional information on which to base their decisions on the suitability of applicants and would reassure the public that robust assessments are in place to safeguard passengers.

In answer to a question, officers confirmed that , should a driver change their name to evade the system, adequate measures were in place to counter this issue.

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusal (NR3) be approved.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2022/23

RESOLVED:

That the following dates be agreed for Committee meetings in 2022/23

(Fridays at 9.30am)

17 June 2022
9 September 2022
4 November 2022
6 January 2023
10 March 2023

CHAIRMAN