

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The following proceedings apply to the licensing sub-committees established by the Licensing Committee of the Huntingdonshire District Council acting as the Licensing Authority.

### 2. Membership

- 2.1 Each licensing sub-committee shall comprise three Members appointed by the Licensing Committee from amongst its membership. A sub-committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members at each meeting, for the purpose of that hearing or meeting.
- 2.2 The quorum for hearings and meetings of a sub-committee shall be three members.
- 2.3 Members shall endeavour to be present throughout an individual hearing by a sub-committee. If a member of a sub-committee is required to leave a hearing temporarily, the Chairman shall adjourn the hearing for the duration of the period whilst that member is unavailable. Any member who is absent from a hearing for any reason whilst that hearing is taking place shall be precluded from commencing or continuing to take part in the matter under debate upon his arrival/return and from voting upon the matter at the conclusion of that item of business.
- 2.4 Where the Sub-Committee undertakes a site visit prior to a hearing, a member shall be precluded from taking part in the hearing if he has not attended that site visit.
- 2.5 A member will not take part in a hearing or meeting at which a matter is being discussed which relates to a premises licence, club premises certificate, temporary events notice or personal licence where either the premises or the person is resident in the ward which he represents.

### 3. Notice of Hearings

- 3.1 Upon the date of a hearing of a sub-committee being arranged, notice shall be given to the parties to the hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Hearings Regulations. For the purposes of this procedure, a party is defined as an applicant for a licence or certificate,

a person who has given a temporary events notice, a responsible authority or a person or business that has submitted relevant representations in respect of an application or applied for a review of a licence or certificate and, in certain additional instances, the Chief Officer of Police.

3.2 The notice of the hearing shall be accompanied by a copy of this procedure which sets out

- the right of attendance at a hearing by a party and the right to submit representations etc.
- the consequences if a party does not attend or is not represented at a hearing
- the procedure to be followed at the hearing

3.3 The notice of the hearing will also be accompanied by copies of the documents required by the Hearings Regulations and any particular points upon which the Sub-Committee considers that it will want clarification from a party at the hearing.

3.4 Where a hearing is to be held on more than one day, the hearing will be arranged so that it takes place on consecutive working days.

#### **4. Action Following Receipt of Notice of Hearing**

4.1 Upon receipt of a notice of a hearing, a party is required to give notice to the licensing authority whether

- he intends to attend or be represented at the hearing,
- he wishes to request permission for any other person to appear at the hearing, accompanied by the name of the person and a brief description of the point(s) to be made by the person, and
- he considers the hearing to be necessary.

4.2 A party should notify the licensing authority within the following timescales-

- 1 working day of the hearing in the case of a cancellation of an interim authority notice following police objections or a counter notice following police objection to a temporary events notice;
- 2 working days of the hearing in the case of a review of a premises licence following a closure order or the conversion of an existing licence or club premises certificate or an application by the holder of a justices' licence for a personal licence; or
- 5 working days of the hearing in all other cases.

- 4.3 Notice may be given to licensing authority by electronic means to the address [democratic.services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) but upon sending the notice by this means, a party must also give the notice to the licensing authority in writing.
- 4.4 A sub-committee may dispense with the holding of a hearing if all of the parties have given notice that they consider a hearing to be unnecessary. Where the parties have agreed that a hearing is unnecessary in such circumstances, the Council shall give notice to the parties that the hearing has been dispensed with.
- 4.5 Where a hearing has been dispensed with, the matter which was to have been the subject of the hearing shall be determined at a meeting of the Sub- Committee.

## **5. Withdrawal of Representations**

- 5.1 A party may give notice to the licensing authority no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the hearing that he wishes to withdraw his representations or he may do so orally at the hearing.

## **6. Extension of Time**

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee may extend any of the time limits specified in this procedure where it considers it necessary to do so in the public interest and shall give notice of the extension of time and the reason for it to the parties to the hearing.
- 6.2 The Sub-Committee may adjourn the hearing or arrange for it to be held on specified additional days, where it considers this to be necessary to consider any representations made by a party. The parties to the hearing will be notified of the adjournment or rearrangement.
- 6.3 In considering any extension of time or adjournment, the Sub-Committee will not exercise its powers so that an application is deemed as granted or rejected in accordance with the transitional arrangements specified in the Act.

## **7. The Hearing**

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing or that part of the hearing taking place in public. The Sub-Committee will normally resolve to exclude the public from that part of the hearing during which the Sub-Committee determines the matter which is the subject of the hearing.

- 7.2 Subject to the above, a party may attend the hearing and may be assisted or represented by any person whether or not that person is legally qualified
- 7.3 At the commencement of the hearing, the Chairman shall introduce the members of the Sub-Committee and any officers in attendance to support the Sub-Committee and shall ask the parties and any persons accompanying them to state their names and addresses or who they represent. The Chairman shall explain to the parties present that the hearing is subject to this procedure, copies of which will have been distributed to the parties with the notice of the hearing, and shall enquire of the persons present whether there are any questions of clarity or explanation about its contents.
- 7.4 The Sub-Committee shall consider any request from another person to appear at the hearing of which notice has been given but such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

**Procedure in all cases other than an application for a review of a premises licence or a club premises certificate or convictions coming to light after the grant or renewal of a personal licence**

- 7.5 The Licensing Officer will present the application. The Chairman will then invite the applicant or his representative to address the Sub-Committee on his application, to respond to any point(s) upon which notice has been given that clarification is required by the licensing authority and to call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear in support of his application. The applicant will be allowed a maximum period of time of twenty minutes in which to address the Sub-Committee and call persons on his behalf.
- 7.6 The applicant or his representative or any person called on his behalf may then be asked any questions upon their presentation by any member of the Sub-Committee or by any of the other parties present at the hearing or their representatives.
- 7.7 The Chairman will then invite each of the parties at the hearing or their representative sequentially to address the Sub-Committee and call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear. Each party will be allowed a maximum period of time of twenty minutes in which to address the Sub-Committee and call persons on his behalf. The sequence in which each of the parties will be invited to address the Sub-Committee will be at the discretion of the Chairman but will normally be in the order of the Chief Officer of Police, the Fire Authority, the health and safety at work enforcing authority, the local planning authority, the local environmental health authority, the local weights and measures authority, the authority responsible for the protection of children from harm, a navigation or other authority responsible for waterways and any other party that has submitted

representations in respect of the application, certificate, notice or other matter appearing before the Sub- Committee.

- 7.8 The party or his representative or any of his witnesses may be asked any questions upon their presentation by any member of the Sub-Committee or by the applicant or his representative or any of the other parties present at the hearing or their representatives.
- 7.9 Where relevant written representations have been received and the party submitting those representations has given notice of his intention not to attend the hearing, the parties present will be invited by the Chairman to indicate whether they wish to comment on the representations submitted. The Sub-Committee may take into account documentary or other evidence submitted by a party either in support of their application, notice or representations either before the hearing or, with the consent of all of the other parties present, at the hearing.
- 7.10 Where appropriate, the Chairman shall remind the parties that their representations should be relevant to the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. The Sub-Committee shall disregard any information given by a party or person permitted to appear which is not relevant to their application, notice or representations or to the licensing objectives. If, in his opinion, the Chairman feels that the representations being made are not relevant, he may, after first reminding the party of the need for relevance, advise the party that he will no longer be heard. Where in the opinion of the chairman, a party is being repetitious, vexatious or slanderous in his remarks, the Chairman may first warn the party and may then advise the party that he will no longer be heard. The ruling of the Chairman shall be final in such circumstances.
- 7.11 The Chairman may require any person who in his opinion is behaving in a disruptive manner at a hearing to leave the hearing and may refuse to permit that person to return or to return only upon complying with such conditions as the Chairman may specify. However any such person may submit any evidence in writing that they proposed to give orally, provided that they do so before the end of the hearing.
- 7.12 After each party has addressed the Sub-Committee and after comments have been invited on written representations, the applicant or his representative will be invited by the Chairman to sum up his application for a time not exceeding two minutes but without introducing any new evidence to the proceedings.

**Procedure in cases relating to an application for a review of a premises licence or a club premises certificate or convictions coming to light after the grant or renewal of a personal licence**

- 7.13 In the case of such hearings, the above procedure shall be followed with the exception that the applicant for a review of a premises licence or a club premises certificate or the chief officer of police in the case of an objection notice where convictions have come light after the grant or renewal of a personal licence will be invited to address the Sub-Committee first and to call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear.
- 7.14 After any questions have been dealt with the holder of the licence or certificate will be invited to address the Sub-Committee and to call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear.
- 7.15 There shall be no right of reply for the applicant for a review of the licence or certificate or for the Chief Officer of Police.

## **8. Determination of Applications**

- 8.1 At the conclusion of the hearing, the Sub-Committee will determine the application in accordance with the timescales specified in the Hearings Regulations but, in any event, will endeavour to do so as soon as practicable after the hearing has concluded.
- 8.2 Where a hearing has been dispensed with in accordance with paragraph 4.2 above, the application will be determined by the Sub-Committee within 10 working days of notice having been given to the parties that the hearing has been dispensed with.
- 8.3 The Licensing Authority will notify the applicant and parties of its decision forthwith upon the making of the decision.
- 8.4 A record shall be taken of the hearing by the licensing authority which shall be retained for six years after the date of the determination of the hearing or the disposal of an appeal against the determination.

## **9. Meetings of the Sub-Committee**

- 9.1 Any meetings of the Sub-Committee, other than hearings described above, shall be subject to the proceedings adopted by the Licensing Committee for the conduct of its own business except where otherwise stated above.