

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 23 October 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor J M Sadler – Chairman.
Councillors K M Baker, J T Bell, J J Dutton, R W J Eaton, R S Farrer, J D Fell, A Hansard, I R Muir and R Powell.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th June 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

16. LICENSING ACT 2003 - GUIDANCE

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which summarised the changes contained in new guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the Licensing Act 2003 and updating Members on the status of the authority's Statement of Licensing Policy.

Members noted the implications for the Council of clarification in relation to the authorisation of the sale of alcohol, temporary events notices and representations by individual Councillors and also were informed of the changes introduced by a new Fire Safety Order. As a result of the latter, the Committee were advised that the licensing authority should no longer seek to impose fire safety conditions on a premises licence or club premises certificate and that any such conditions imposed by the authority had automatically ceased to have effect without the need to vary existing licences and certificates.

In terms of the authority's Statement of Licensing Policy, the Committee were advised that the document would expire in January 2008. In that light, the Head of Administration reported that a new draft Statement had been issued for consultation to all Members and a wide variety of organisations. Comments on the representations received would be submitted to the Cabinet at their meeting on the 22nd November 2007 with a view to obtaining final approval at the Council meeting on the 5th December 2007.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Head of Administration be authorised, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to

make any changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy as a result of the replies received during the consultation period; and

- (b) that the Cabinet be requested to endorse the document for submission to the Council for approval.

17. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CURRENT UPDATE

By way of report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee were acquainted with the work undertaken by the Licensing Section under the Licensing Act 2003. Information was presented on the number of licences, certificates and temporary events notices that had been issued during the past year, the hearings that had been held and the inspections and enforcement undertaken by the Section, which included the review of two licensed premises in St Neots.

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted.

18. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee received and noted a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on progress to date towards the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 and the work still to be undertaken. Members were acquainted with the number of licences processed and the anticipated volume of permits that would need to be renewed, together with details of statutory fees set under the legislation.

The Committee were informed of the difficulty in determining the number of registered club machine permits previously issued by the courts and that no indication of the likely level of temporary and occasional use notices was available. Members' attention also was drawn to the need to forward quarterly statistics to the Gambling Commission.

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report now submitted be noted.

Chairman