

LICENSING COMMITTEE

24 JUNE 2008

(7.15pm – 7.40pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Rod Scott (in the Chair), Richard Chellew, Chris Edge, Andrew Judge, Krysia Williams and Ron Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Fabiola Hickson (Senior Lawyer), Alan Powell (Licensing Officer) and Lynne Hartley (Democratic Services Officer).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Philip Jones and David Simpson CBE.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

No declarations of interest were made.

2 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2007 are agreed as a correct record.

3 LICENSING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (Agenda Item 3)

The Committee considered first whether there was a need to increase its membership in order to deal with the anticipated number of hearings in 2008/09. Having been advised by Alan Powell that it was not envisaged that there would be more hearings than in the previous year, when there had been 15, the Committee agreed that the number of members should remain at 10 for the time being. In reaching this decision it was also noted that more members of the Committee were available to attend daytime meetings than had formerly been the case.

It was agreed to review this position if there was an unexpected increase in the number of hearings required or in any case within 12 months, having regard when timetabling the review to the process to be followed to obtain approval for a constitutional change.

The Committee next considered whether there was a need to determine the arrangements for chairing the sub-committees. With the caveat that it would be inappropriate for an inexperienced member of the Committee to chair a sub-committee it was agreed that there was no necessity to put in place formal arrangements for the appointment of chairs.

RESOLVED: That (1) the size of the Licensing Committee remains at 10, this position to be reviewed as necessary or in any case within 12 months, and

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(2) no formal arrangements for appointing chairs to the sub-committees to be put in place at this stage.

4 REVIEW OF GAMBLING FEES (Agenda Item 5)

Alan Powell confirmed that although the licensing team had received very few applications from gambling premises an exercise to consider the level of income from fees against the costs in officer time and setting up the system had showed that the authority was not making a profit. On this basis the Committee agreed that the fees should remain at the maximum permissible level.

RESOLVED: That the fees charged for the grant and issue of premises licenses under the Gambling Act 2005 remain at the maximum level permitted.