

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on Thursday
25 July 2013 at 10.30am

Present

Councillors: Mrs E M Andrews, M D Binks, R J Chesterton, Mrs F J Colthorpe, D R Coren, A V G Griffiths, T G Hughes, D J Knowles, M A Lucas and E G Luxton.

Apologies

Councillors: N V Davey and M R Lee

Also Present

Councillor: R M Deed

Also Present

Officers: M Parish (Licensing Manager), T Keating (Licensing Officer) and S Lees (Member Services Officer).

1. **CHAIRMAN – ELECTION** (The Vice Chairman of the Council, Cllr R F Radford, in the Chair)

RESOLVED that Cllr T G Hughes be elected
Chairman of the Committee for the municipal
year 2013/14.

Cllr T G Hughes then took the Chair.

2. **VICE CHAIRMAN – ELECTION**

RESOLVED that Cllr D J Knowles be elected
Vice Chairman of the Committee for the
municipal year 2013/14.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 18 February 2013**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman

5. **PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, a report* of the Head of Environmental Services reporting on the annual performance of the Licensing Service. This service had recently been internally audited and had been judged to be 'well controlled'.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The need to investigate an easier way of reporting on performance through the corporate systems as currently there was a duplication of processes;
- There had been a 37% response rate to the customer satisfaction surveys that had been sent out throughout the year, this had been slightly higher than in previous years.

Note: * Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes

7. LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

The Licensing Manager informed the Committee that the Licensing Policy was in the process of being drafted and would go out for general consultation in the next two or three weeks. It would now incorporate all the changes to the Licensing Act and would be circulated to all Members of the Licensing Committee before final approval. The policy would go for full Council's approval at its meeting on 18 December 2013.

8. UPDATE ON A LICENSING APPEAL

The Licensing Manager reminded the Committee that at a Sub Committee hearing in May 2013 an application for a Temporary Event Notice by Mr Watts had been refused for a number of reasons falling under the prevention of public noise nuisance objection. Mr Watts had appealed against this decision resulting in the case being heard in court on 24 July 2013. She informed the Committee that the court had upheld the decision of the District Council stating that the original reasons given by the Sub Committee were sound. It would now be a matter for the Police to investigate whether the appellant adhered to the wishes of the court.

9. LICENSING ACT 2003 – PREMISES LICENCE SUSPENSION, CAUTION UPDATE

It was explained that it was possible to issue a formal caution as an alternative to prosecution should the conditions of a licence be breached. This had been the case regarding a Mr Richard Hartley of Culm Valley Inn (EX15 3JJ) who had been issued with a formal caution on 19th June 2013 by the Head of Environmental Services. His licence had been suspended on 8 March 2013 but he had continued to trade until the enforcement team visited his premises again on 8 May 2013. It was confirmed that Mr Hartley had now paid the associated fine.

(The meeting ended at 11.05pm)

CHAIRMAN