

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on 19 June 2020 at 10.30 am

Present

Councillors

J Cairney (Chairman)
Mrs F J Colthorpe, D R Coren, J M Downes,
T G Hughes, R J Chesterton, D J Knowles,
Mrs E M Andrews, S J Penny, L D Taylor
and A Wilce

Apologies

Councillor(s)

Miss J Norton

Also Present

Councillor(s)

R M Deed and L J Cruwys

Also Present

Officer(s):

Maria De Leburne (Legal Services Team Leader), Thomas Keating (Specialist Lead (Licensing) Officer), Deborah Sharpley (Solicitor), Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL IN THE CHAIR)

Cllr J Cairney was elected Chairman for the municipal year 2020-2021.

(Nominated by Cllr L D Taylor and seconded by Cllr J M Downes)

2 VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL

Members had before them, and **NOTED**, the *remote meetings protocol.

Note: *Remote meeting protocol previously circulated and attached to the minutes

3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr D R Coren was elected Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2020-2021

(Nominated by Cllr S J Penny and seconded by Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe)

4 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Cllr Miss J Norton

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations made

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The *minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2019 were **AGREED** as a true record

Note: *Minutes previously circulated and attached to the minutes

8 ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Specialist Lead Licensing Officer addressed the Committee and explained the remit of the Licensing Committee.

He explained that the Licensing team were not currently completing pro active inspections but were concentrating on Covid-19 restrictions. There had been 3 public houses who had possibly been opening under the current restrictions. He explained that the team was predominately giving advice to businesses and dealing with administrative issues.

He informed members that the Council had not been enforcing annual licensing fees during the pandemic as most of the businesses had been closed. He explained that the next focus for the team would be to provide a free advice service for businesses who would be re opening in the coming months to advise them how they could do this safely within the regulations. He stated that they had started to take the first enquiries from businesses which planned to reopen.

He stated that the first virtual licensing hearing had been conducted and that the process had gone well. The team would look to try and retain the option of virtual meetings for future hearings.

In response to a question the Specialist Lead Licensing Officer explained that the Licensing team would be working alongside the Public Health team to ensure that social distancing measures were being adhered to in re opened licenced businesses.

Members expressed their appreciation in the way that Officers had acquitted themselves during the current crisis.

(The meeting ended at 10.50 am)

CHAIRMAN