

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on 26 August 2022
at 10.00 am

Present

Councillors

J Cairney (Chairman)
J Bartlett, D R Coren, J M Downes,
Miss J Norton and Mrs E J Slade

Apologies

Councillor(s)

R J Chesterton, Mrs F J Colthorpe, D J Knowles and
L D Taylor

Also Present

Councillor(s)

A Wilce and R J Dolley

Also Present

Officer(s):

Tanya Wenham (Operations Manager for Public Health
and Housing Options), Deborah Sharpley (Solicitor),
Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer) and Jessica
Rowe (Member Services Apprentice)

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

Cllr J Cairney was duly elected Chairman of the Licensing Committee for the
municipal year 2022-2023

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (0.04.35)

Cllr Mrs E J Slade was duly elected Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee for
the municipal year 2022-2023

3 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (05.35)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs F J Colthorpe, R J Chesterton, D J Knowles
and L D Taylor.

Cllr A Wilce attended via ZOOM.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0.06.14)

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations where appropriate

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0.06.33)

There were no members of the public present

6 MINUTES (0.07.15)

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2021 were agreed as a true record and duly **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

7 **ENFORCEMENT UPDATE (0.07.59)**

The Operations Manager for Public Health & Housing Options gave an overview of the service and noted that:

- Due to unforeseen circumstances that staffing levels and lack of expertise, inspections had been limited
- There had been no direct enforcement of Licensing Premises due to the staffing issues
- 2 subcommittee licensing hearings had been held, both of which were granted
- There had been regular liaison with the Police and Environmental Health on Temporary Event Notices
- With a new team and specialist support now in place, a program of training and increased enforcement and pro-active inspections is now planned
- Premises applications had increased from 69 in 2020-2021 to 276 to date in 2022-2023 and were back to pre covid levels
- A qualified Animal Welfare Inspector had been employed to complete premises inspections and provide in depth reports
- There were 3 new applications for dog breeders pending and 2 renewals

Members were saddened to hear the loss of qualified staff and questioned how the team's enforcement obligations could be met.

The Operations Manager for Public Health & Housing Options responded by stating that looking after the health and safety of the public was a priority. Where public health had been assessed as at risk enforcement was undertaken and/or a hearing arranged. They were building competency across the team. The team had a clear development plan and agency staff had been employed to provide training to new staff members. The Operations Manager indicated that she monitored the team's key performance indicators on a monthly basis

Members requested that a report on results against the teams current key performance indicators be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

(The meeting ended at 10.25 am)

CHAIRMAN