

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on 1 December 2023 at 10.30 am

Present

Councillors

J Cairney (Chairman)
A Cuddy (Vice Chairman), C Adcock,
D Broom, F J Colthorpe, L J Cruwys,
J M Downes, M Farrell and L G J Kennedy

Apologies

Councillor(s)

J Frost

Also Present

Officer(s):

Deborah Sharpley (Legal Services Solicitor), Harriet Said (Team Leader (Commercial), Public Health), Alan Drake (Specialist Lead (Licensing)) and Angie Howell (Democratic Services Officer)

Councillors

Online

S Chenore, G Westcott

9 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (04:23)

Apologies were received from Cllr J Frost and Cllr S Chenore attended as his substitute online.

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (04:43)

There were no members of the public present and no questions were asked.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (05:18)

There were no declarations of interest received.

12 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (05:44)

The minutes of the 30th June 2023 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.

13 LICENSING UPDATE REPORT (06:12)

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, the Service Update.

The contents of the report were outlined by the Team Leader, Commercial, Public Health and highlighted the following:

- The report provided an overview of the activity carried out by the Licensing Team during the first half of 2023/2024.
- Mid Devon District Council had a total of 406 licensed premises under the Licensing Act 2003. During quarter 1 and 2 of this year the Licensing Team dealt with applications from 10% of the total number of licenced premises in the District.
- The Service had received a large number of Temporary Event Notices (TENs), totalling 225 in first two quarters of the year.
- Discussions had taken place with organisers of the Mid Devon Show, who were looking at the option to apply for a premises licence for the whole site rather than continuing with multiple TENs.
- 15% of the TENS received were for the Mid Devon Show.
- Licensing Officers had conducted 15 inspections of licenced premises resulting from complaints or information received that indicated a non-compliance.
- There had been 1 application considered during the first half of 2023/24 by the Licensing Sub-Committee. The Hearing outcome was removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and a period of suspension during a weekend in October 2023. A new DPS was now in place.
- Due to an amendment in the Statutory Guidance, all new applications had to consider the potential of a terrorist event taking place.
- Following a consultation, the Government had now commenced a number of changes to the late-night levy.
- Provisions in relation to pavement licences in the Business and Planning Act 2022 had been extended by regulations until 30 September 2024.
- A review of the Licensing Policy occurred every five years and this would be coming in the next 12 months.

Consideration was given to:-

- Public safety around spiking drinks and a request from the Committee to invite Top Stoppers to give a presentation at a future meeting.
- The obstruction of pavements and the effect upon people with sight problems when café's place tables on the pavements and businesses place A Frames outside with a request from the Committee for an update on legislation at the next meeting.
- Writing to the premises involved in the application above to confirm the weekend that it closed in October 2023.

Note: * Report previously circulated.

(The meeting ended at 10.59 am)

CHAIRMAN