

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY, 2022** at 7.30 pm in The Council Chamber, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Jonathan Simpson (Chair), Lorna Greenwood (Vice-Chair), Meric Apak, Eddie Hanson, Jenny Headlam-Wells, Matthew Kirk, Izzy Lenga, Shah Miah, Richard Olszewski and Nanouche Umeadi

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Pat Callaghan, Matt Cooper, Sharon Hardwick, Sylvia McNamara and Gio Spinella

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

THAT the guidance on hybrid meetings be agreed.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pat Callaghan, Sharon Hardwick and Sylvia McNamara.

3. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcasting of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live to the internet and the broadcast would remain available for six months, after which it could be made available on request. Anyone addressing the meeting was deemed to be consenting to having their contribution recorded and broadcast and to the use of those recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

5. DEPUTATIONS

The Chair accepted a joint deputation request from the Highgate Society, the Heath & Hampstead Society and the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum.

Francis Wilkinson, representing the Highgate Society, presented the deputation, which requested that the Council inform residents of licensing applications in their areas, highlighting that the current email alert system was difficult to use.

The Public Protection Manager responded to the deputation by advising that Camden's Statement of Licensing Policy aligned with the Licensing Act 2003 and required applicants to inform the public of their application by publishing a notice in a local news publication and by displaying a notice on or outside the premises. The Public Protection Manager further advised that the email alert system would soon benefit from an IT upgrade and that a link to sign up to the email alerts would be displayed more prominently on the website.

The Chair thanked the deputees for their attendance.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Licensing Committee Terms of Reference were noted.

8. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2022.

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND HEARING PROCEDURES OF THE LICENSING PANELS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee introduced the report and summarised that the Committee was asked to consider and approve the proposal to change the terms of reference and the hearing procedures of the Licensing Panels to allow them to determine applications made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for the grant, renewal, transfer, variation, or revocation of sex establishment licences.

In response to Members' questions, the Legal Advisor provided the following information:

- Site visits to venues were the exception, not the norm, and it was for Members to decide whether to conduct a site visit if they considered it would be useful to them when considering an application.
- Unlike applications made under the Licensing Act 2003, Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licenses were subject to an annual renewal process. There were currently four SEVs in the Borough, so renewals for these venues come before a Panel annually.
- It was expected that SEV licence applications would be heard within the existing Licensing Panel schedule and would be scheduled to be heard as standalone items, rather than alongside other alcohol licence applications.
- Legislation did not permit SEV hearings to be heard remotely, they must be convened in person.
- Whilst Camden's Sex Establishments Policy established a presumption that any applications for new SEV licences would be refused, this did not mean that applications for a new licence could not be made. If an application was received each case must be considered on its merits and be determined by Members. Therefore, a new application could be made and would need to be considered by a relevant panel.
- Regarding SEV Licences, there were no functions delegated to Officers, so all applications received must come before Members for consideration.

Some Members commented that it would be beneficial to widen the knowledge and expertise of the whole Committee in relation to SEV applications and that the proposals would more evenly distribute the workload of those Members who were currently appointed to the Licensing (Sexual Entertainment Venues) Sub-Committee.

Overall, the Committee welcomed the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference and Hearing Procedures of the Licensing Panels and were supportive of the recommendations.

Therefore, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT the Licensing Committee ask the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to recommend the following to Council:

- i) That the terms of reference of the Licensing Sub-Committees (known as Licensing Panels) be amended, as set out at Appendix A of the report, to allow Panels to determine applications made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for the grant, renewal, transfer, variation or revocation of sex establishment licences; and
- ii) That the hearing procedures of the Licensing Sub-Committees (known as Licensing Panels) be amended, as set out at Appendix B to the report, to incorporate the procedure for the hearing of applications made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for the grant, renewal, transfer, variation or revocation of sex establishment licences.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

The meeting ended at 8.06 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END