

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY, on Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Simon Carswell (Chair)
Cllr Marcus Kravis (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Simon Coles	Cllr Hugh Davies
Cllr Lance Duddridge	Cllr Tony Lock
Cllr Connor Payne	Cllr Tom Power
Cllr Tony Robbins	Cllr Diogo Rodrigues
Cllr Brian Smedley	Cllr Andy Soughton

Other Members present remotely:

Cllr Jason Baker	Cllr Leigh Redman
Cllr Claire Sully	

5 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 1

An apology was received from Councillor Peter Clayton.

6 Minutes from the Previous Meeting - Agenda Item 2

The Committee **resolved** that the minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 11 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

7 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

Councillors present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor of a Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

UNITARY COUNCILLOR	TOWN AND/OR PARISH COUNCIL
Jason Baker	Chard Town Council
Simon Carswell	Street Parish Council
Marcus Kravis	Minehead Town Council

Tony Lock	Yeovil Town Council
Leigh Redman	Bridgwater Town Council
Tony Robbins	Wells City Council
Brian Smedley	Bridgwater Town Council
Andy Soughton	Yeovil Town Council

Councillors Carswell and Kravis further declared personal interests as Gambling License Holders.

8 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

No questions or statements had been received for Public Question Time.

9 Statement of Principles - Gambling Policy - Agenda Item 5

The Licensing and Fraud Manager, Alan Weldon, presented his report on the draft Statement of Principles document for the Gambling Policy and explained the consultation process to be followed.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors queried the link between Planning and Licensing and whether either department had the power to restrict how many gambling premises could be located within a certain area.
- Councillors queried whether there was enough resource to carry out the necessary inspections.
- Councillors requested clarification on demarcation and whether it should be the same for all.
- Concern was raised on the suitability of the location of certain gambling premises, for example near schools, community halls and parks.
The Licensing and Fraud Manager advised that some premises had been established years ago before the Gambling Act 2005 had come into force. He also clarified the aim was to permit gambling unless there was evidence of any problems in the area.
- Concern was raised on applications being agreed by Planning Committee which might not meet the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.
The Licensing and Fraud Manager agreed and advised that if that were to happen, a Licensing Sub-Committee would be required to make the decision.
- Councillors mentioned the white paper that was due to go to consultation and the impact that might have on the policy.
- Councillors highlighted that the Gambling Commission had clamped down on larger businesses which had had a good impact.

- Councillors agreed the document had been well written and thanked the officers for their work.

Resolved that the Licensing and Regulatory Committee agreed to permit the draft Statement of Principles document be made available for consultation as required by the Gambling Act 2005.

10 Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committees - Agenda Item 6

The Committee **noted** that the minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committees held on 19 April 2023, 28 April 2023 and 15 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

(The meeting ended at 2.55 pm)

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CHAIR