

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY, on Thursday, 12 October 2023 at 2.00 pm

Present:

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

Cllr Peter Clayton
Cllr Tom Power
Cllr Brian Smedley

Cllr Hugh Davies
Cllr Tony Robbins
Cllr Andy Soughton

Other Members present remotely:

Cllr Simon Coles

Cllr Lance Duddridge

18 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 1

Apologies were received from Councillors Jason Baker, Jenny Kenton, Tony Lock, Connor Payne and Diogo Rodrigues.

19 Minutes from the Previous Meeting - Agenda Item 2

Resolved that the minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 14 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

20 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
Simon Carswell	Street Parish Council
Peter Clayton	Burnham Highbridge Town Council
Marcus Kravis	Minehead 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.

Councillors Davies and Robbins further declared a personal interest as Personal Licence Holders.

Councillor Kravis declared that he had submitted a consultation response.

21 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions submitted.

22 Statement of Principles - Gambling Policy - Agenda Item 5

The Licensing and Fraud Manager, Alan Weldon, presented the report on the Statement of Principles for the Gambling Policy and detailed some of the consultation responses. He further advised the Committee of some upcoming changes to gambling legislation proposed by Government to be included in a White Paper.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors queried what an UFEC was.
The Licensing and Fraud Manager advised that it was an unlicensed family entertainment centre.
- Councillors stated that the Policy was a good, balanced strategic overview of the Statement of Principles.
- Councillors agreed that the Policy ensured that licence holders complied with legislation and guided them on correct protocols to follow.
- Concern was raised on whether licence holders should be responsible for obtaining electrical safety certificates along with the fire safety certificates, as the guidance varied on each policy.
The Licensing and Fraud Manager advised that the reason it was not a requirement for all policies, was that it was for each responsible authority to check for compliance in their own areas of expertise.
- Concern was raised that the consultation response rate was low.
- Councillors thanked the officers for all their hard work and the consultees for their responses submitted.

Resolved that the Licensing and Regulatory Committee considered the consultation comments made regarding the Gambling Policy, recommended any amendments, and recommended the final draft of the Policy for approval by Full Council. The

Policy (Statement of Principles) was for approval of a non-executive function and could, therefore, only be exercised by Full Council.

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

The Chair of Committee thanked all of the councillors that had taken part in the Sub-Committees and reminded committee members to respond to the requests from officers.

The Committee **noted** that the minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committees held on 9 August 2023 and 6 September 2023, be confirmed as a correct record.

(The meeting ended at 2.30 pm)

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CHAIR