

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing and Regulatory Committee** held on **Monday 10 July 2023 at 5.30 pm** in the **Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present

Councillors

Mick Bradshaw

Carol Bull

Patrick Chung

Dawn Dicker

Roger Dicker

Pat Hanlon

Rachel Hood

Beccy Hopfensperger

Ian Houlder

Janne Jarvis

Charlie Lynch

Richard O'Driscoll

David Smith

Liz Smith

Don Waldron

8. **Election of Chair 2023/2024**

This being the first meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee since the Authority's Annual Meeting in May 2023, the Business Partner (Regulatory and Information Governance) opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the Chair of the Committee for 2023/2024.

Councillor Pat Hanlon nominated Councillor Roger Dicker and Councillor Dicker accepted the nomination.

There being no other nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Roger Dicker be elected as Chair for 2023/2024.

Councillor Dicker thanked the Committee and then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

9. **Election of Vice Chair 2023/2024**

The Chair then sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Councillor Don Waldron nominated Councillor Pat Hanlon and Councillor Hanlon accepted the nomination.

There being no other nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Pat Hanlon be elected as Vice Chair for 2023/2024.

10. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Anderson, Rowena Lindberg, Aaron Luccarini and Marilyn Sayer.

11. **Substitutes**

The following substitutions were declared:

Councillor Mick Bradshaw substituting for Councillor Aaron Luccarini; Councillor Dawn Dicker substituting for Councillor Michael Anderson; Councillor Janne Jarvis substituting for Councillor Marilyn Sayer; and Councillor David Smith substituting for Councillor Rowena Lindberg.

12. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

14. **Public participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

15. **Presentation on Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Consultation**

The Food, Safety & Licensing Manager advised the Committee on the ongoing consultation being undertaken by West Suffolk Council in respect of Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) areas, which was open for responses until 21 July 2023.

Members were informed that Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) areas were a licensing tool which encouraged applicants who were applying for a new premises license or longer licensing hours in a designated area, to address how they would ensure it did not lead to increased issues of anti-social behaviour, crime and impact on public health.

CIA's did not prevent a licence from being granted. CIA's are not an enforcement tool to tackle anti-social behaviour. Other measures such as police powers and existing licensing laws offered greater powers to address these issues.

The Food, Safety & Licensing Manager explained that regulations that had now come into force under Section 141 of the Policing and Crime Act, meaning that any further renewal of the CIA's in Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket, must be justified by evidence of its effectiveness.

As a result, the Council was undertaking the consultation to see if there was the evidence to support the renewal of the CIA for Bury St Edmunds and for

Newmarket. Both CIAs must be reviewed by the end of 2023 and without strong evidence to renew, they would expire.

16. **Presentation and insight into the pro-active Licensed Premises Inspection Programme**

This item provided an insight into some of the work of the Council's Licensing Service.

The Food, Safety & Licensing Manager advised the Committee that Officers were seeking to reimplement regular meetings with the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Pubwatch schemes that operated within West Suffolk.

In response to a question, Members were informed that the Licensing Authority did carry out unannounced inspections to licensed premises.

Discussion then moved on to Hackney Carriages and the Committee was advised that the Licensing Service undertook regular rank inspections.

Officers were also committed to engaging with the local police in order to establish joint intervention rank inspections.

The Chair then referenced the operation of the Committee highlighted the start time of the Committee's meetings being 5.30pm; which he considered to be difficult for those Members who worked.

Accordingly, he proposed that the start time of the Committee be moved to 6.00pm and this was duly seconded by Councillor Rachel Hood.

Upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED:

That future meetings of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee commence at 6.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 5.50pm

Signed by:

Chair
