

# Minutes

of a meeting of the

## Licensing Acts Committee

held at 10am on Wednesday 14 July 2010

at the Guildhall, Abingdon

**Open to the Public, including the Press**

### **Present:**

Members: Councillor Zoe Patrick (Chair), Janet Morgan (Vice-Chair), Richard Farrell, Terry Fraser, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Alison Rooke, Peter Saunders, Robert Sharp, Elaine Ware and Richard Webber

South Oxfordshire District Council Licensing Acts Committee Members, by invitation: Councillors Joan Bland, Colin Dawkes, John Flood, Elizabeth Gillespie, Malcolm Leonard, Roswitha Myer, and Margaret Turner

Officers: Steve Culliford, Nigel Haverson, and Margaret Reed

Number of members of the public: Nil

### **LA.3 Notification of substitutes and apologies for absence**

Councillors Bob Johnston, John Morgan, and Val Shaw had sent apologies for absence.

### **LA.4 Minutes**

RESOLVED

To approve as correct records the committee's minutes of 26 November 2009 and 19 May 2010 and agree that the chair signs them.

### **LA.5 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Richard Farrell declared a personal interest in the item on the licensing policy, as he was a chairman of the Blewbury Recreation Ground Management Committee that held a premises licence. Councillor Terry Fraser declared a personal interest in the same item, as he was chairman of the Vale and Downland Museum and Lains Barn management committees, which held premises licences. Councillor Alison Rooke declared a personal interest in the same item, as she was a member of the Abingdon Operatic Society. Councillor Peter Saunders declared a personal interest as he held premises and personal licences. Minute LA.8 refers.

## **LA.6 Urgent business and chair's announcements**

None

## **LA.7 Statements, petitions, and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Licensing Acts Committee**

None

## **LA.8 Joint Statement of Licensing Policy**

The committee considered report 27/10 of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, which set out a draft statement of licensing policy. This was a joint policy developed with South Oxfordshire District Council. The Licensing Act 2003 required the council to publish its statement of licensing policy every three years. The council approved the existing policy in December 2007; it was due for review. In the absence of any guidance from the new coalition government, the council had to review its policy in line with the existing legislation. However, if new legislation or guidance emerged, the council might have to review the policy again.

The committee considered the draft policy and made the following amendments:

- Paragraph 15.2, amend the last line to read "...Appendix 5 to this policy."
- Policy OS 11 to read, "A mandatory condition requires that free tap water is available on request where it is reasonably available."
- Policy OS 13, amend the last line in the second paragraph to read, "...in the "Safer Nightlife" booklet..."
- Paragraph 44.2 under the "Planning" heading to read, "Planning controls are covered in paragraph 10 and Policy GN8."
- Appendix 3, paragraph A3.3.2 to read, "The strategy was produced through the South Oxfordshire Partnership..."

The committee asked the officers to check whether the legislation precluded notifying local members of variations to licences for village halls, and if not, to include this within the council's notification procedure.

The committee noted that a twelve-week public consultation would follow on the revised draft policy. The committee would consider any responses to the consultation in the autumn before recommending the policy's adoption to the council in December. Councillors noted that the next committee meeting would be at South Oxfordshire's offices.

**RESOLVED**

To approve the amended draft joint statement of licensing policy for public consultation, as required by section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

**Exempt information under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972**

None

The meeting rose at 10.55 am