



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

2

TUESDAY 4th MARCH 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

Forum Members Present:

- Stuart Baxter
- David Black
- PC Heather Bowsher
- David Forrest
- Rudi Fruzynski
- Jim Goodfellow
- Pat Hanson (outgoing Secretary)
- George Hood
- Inspr Ian Mackay
- Garry Naysmith
- Christine O'Brien
- Ricky Ross
- John Thayers

Council Officials Present: None

Licensing Board Members Present: None (other than Jim Goodfellow)

Visitors Present: None

Apologies:

- Bernard Harkins
- Stuart Logan
- Dave Dickson (received later)
- Kirstie MacNeill

In the absence of the outgoing Chair, Jim Goodfellow took the Chair

1. FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Pat Hanson (outgoing Secretary) reported on email correspondence received from Fiona Currie at East Lothian Council. This related to formalising the appointment of ongoing and new members of the Forum. He read out names from List A (existing members who may be confirmed for a further period) and List B (recent new members who needed their applications formally approved). As a result of discussion Martin Bonnar's name was deleted from List A and Stuart Baxter's name added [*Dave Dickson's name should also have been added because he later clarified that he wished to stay on the Forum*]. List B members present who were asked to complete application forms were David Black, Christine O'Brien, Garry Naysmith and George Hood (who was welcomed as a full member rather than a guest). Pat said that any remaining Forum membership issues should be resolved by the new Secretary and Fiona Currie by 31st March 2014.

Decision

List A Forum members, as amended above, were approved for continuing membership subject to any further formal procedures. List B members, as confirmed by the receipt of completed application forms and any further formal procedures, were also so approved.

2. ELECTION OF FORUM OFFICERS

For the post of Chair and Convener George Hood was nominated, seconded, duly elected and took over as Chair of the meeting.

For the post of Secretary David Black was nominated, seconded and duly elected. David was welcomed to his first Forum meeting and introductions were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2013

The minutes of the December meeting had been previously circulated. No problems with the accuracy were raised.

Decision

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i Refresher Training for Personal Licence Holders Pat Hanson reported that ITA Training were proposing to hold a further Refresher Training course at the Maitlandfield House Hotel, Haddington, on 25th March 2014. CPL were also holding courses at a number of centres, with the Edinburgh ones scheduled for about every six weeks. The Chair reported that RASP pubwatch had organised Refresher Training through Macdonald Licensing at Musselburgh Rugby Club on 16th April 2014 at a cost of £75.

In discussion PC Heather Bowsher asked how many Personal Licence holders in the area had their licence dating back to 2008/9 and who therefore needed early refresher training? Rudi Fruzynski said that it was about 300 out of 1100 in the area; the Council would be writing out three months in advance of the expiry of personal licences. There had been plenty of publicity about the need to refresh through SLTN and other trade media and as LSO he was continually stressing the need for this to be undertaken. Further publicity would be afforded through the Forum website. The position was noted.

ii 2014 Meeting Dates and Joint Meeting with the Licensing Board Pat Hanson confirmed the previously agreed meeting dates ie the first Tuesday in June, September and December. It had been proposed that the annual joint meeting with the Licensing Board be held as part of the June 2014 Forum meeting. Jim Goodfellow indicated that he was happy with this.

Decision

It was agreed that the joint meeting with the Licensing Board should take place at the June 2014 Forum meeting. Kirstie MacNeill, Clerk to the Licensing Board, should be contacted about this by the Secretary.

5. ALCOHOL LICENSING FEES - REPORT TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

The report of the relevant steering group, which had been previously circulated, was discussed. Members noted that (partly due to a lack of response from Councils on existing fees) there had not been any specific recommendations on fee structures and levels. More expenditure was said to be needed on the expenditure of income from fees. It was noted that the report suggested that fees for Occasional Licences should be increased, perhaps substantially. Jim Goodfellow said that he was looking for guidance from the Forum on this issue. There was also an option for more than one band for Occasional Licence fees eg in respect of charities. He would report back on the Board's decision later.

Decision

It was agreed to be reasonable for the fee for Occasional Licences to be increased. The rest of the paper was noted.

6. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER'S REPORT

Rudi Fruzynski reported that a personal licence had been suspended for five months as a result of a police report. This had shown that the Board meant business and was not afraid to use its powers. The Board had considered four major variations, including a change to an Open Licence for Musselburgh Golf Club. A new premises licence had been agreed for the Waterloo Bistro at Haddington. Because of the temporary closure of the premises previously due to flooding this was agreed with due regard to the new Overprovision policy.

Rudi gave additional details about the procedure to be put into place for the endorsement of a Personal Licence following the successful completion of Refresher Training. This would also enable any change of address to be recorded and there would be no fee. This would all be clarified on the Forum website.

Rudi reported that in the recent period there had only been a small number of complaints and gave additional details about the overall business dealt with by the Board. There would be no general extension of Licensed Hours for the World Cup in June 2014 - any applications would be dealt with on their merits. After questions from members about World Cup extensions, early opening at some premises, Open Licences for clubs and the prospect for approval of a premises licence for the Musselburgh Arms the report was noted with thanks.

7. POLICE REPORT

PC Heather Bowsher gave a report on the recent three month period. Serious assaults were down 60% in the last year due to the effects of exclusion orders and the monitoring of some premises. One premises had been closed due to insolvency. This was likely to result in an application for a new Premises Licence. Presentations of the 'Who Are You?' video, aimed at preventing sexual assaults, had continued.

Inspector Ian Mackay added that there had been a good feedback and response to the additional police activity over the Christmas and New Year period.

Pat Hanson raised a query about press reports about a premises in Musselburgh said to have been visited by police 18 times in December and January. PC Bowsher said that this should be viewed positively because the management of the premises was being proactive in dealing with issues.

After further discussion about response rates and incident numbers the report was noted with thanks.

8. PUBWATCH SCHEME REPORTS

The Chair said that he had recently attended a National Pubwatch Meeting in Manchester. This had dealt with important issues of partnership building and the need to continue the downward trend in violent crime. There was also a new PASS ID scheme being launched. Some legal aspects of Pubwatch activities were under scrutiny and a case in England to be heard on 12th April may be significant.

There were no other pubwatch reports.

9. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND

i National Licensing Conference 2014 Pat Hanson reported that the AFS Conference would be taking place in Edinburgh on 7th October 2014.

Decision

It was agreed that, in accordance with previous practice (and with thanks to the Council) the Chair and Secretary should attend the 7th October Conference.

ii eFocus Newsletters The December and January Newsletters had been previously circulated. Pat Hanson said that the February issue, of which he had a small number of paper copies, had been circulated by email.

John Thayers noted that Minimum Unit Pricing looked like being delayed indefinitely whilst the legal arguments went into Europe. He was also happy to note that alcohol-related deaths had fallen faster in Scotland than in the rest of the UK. The papers were noted.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a unanimous vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair and Secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.