



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
EAST LOTHIAN LICENSING BOARD**

**THURSDAY 23 MAY 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Board Members Present:

Councillor F Dugdale (Convener)
Councillor J Goodfellow (from item 2b)
Councillor J Henderson
Councillor W Innes
Councillor J McMillan

Depute Clerk of the Licensing Board:

Mr C Grilli, Service Manager – Legal and Procurement

Attending:

Ms G Herkes, Licensing Officer
Ms C Shiel, Licensing Officer
PC H Bowsher, Police Scotland

Committee Clerk:

Ms S Birrell

Apologies:

Councillor L Bruce
Ms K MacNeill
Mr R Fruzynski

Declarations of Interest:

None

1 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 25 APRIL 2019

The minutes of the East Lothian Licensing Board meeting of 25 April 2019 were approved as a true record.

2 PERSONAL LICENCE APPLICATIONS

a) MS IVANA R ALONGI

The Depute Clerk introduced the item and asked the Police for their comment.

PC Bowsher referred to a letter from Police Scotland dated 6 May 2019, which had informed the Board that the applicant had a previous, unspent conviction which she had not declared on her application form. The Police had no objections to granting the licence.

Ms Alongi, the applicant, was present at the meeting. Mr A Alongi, was also present. Ms Alongi explained she had not been aware the incident in question had resulted in a criminal record, and this was why she had not stated it on the form.

There were no questions from Board members.

Councillor Innes outlined that, given the Police had no objections to the application, he would not be opposing the grant of licence. Provost McMillan recommended that potential licensees should not hesitate to contact the Licensing Office or the Police with any queries regarding the completion of relevant forms. Councillor Henderson agreed with the comments made by her colleagues and added that she was comfortable with the reason given for the omission.

Decision

East Lothian Licensing Board unanimously agreed to grant the personal licence.

b) MS MEI MEI NI

The Clerk advised that the application represented a continuation from a meeting of the Licensing Board held in November 2018.

PC Bowsher reported that there had been no change to the status of outstanding charges against the applicant and as such the Police retained their objection to granting the licence at this time.

Ms Mei Mei Ni, applicant, was present but declined to comment.

There were no questions from Board members.

Councillor Innes stated that, given there had been no material change in the applicant's circumstances, he would find it impossible to take a decision on the licence, and recommended the application should be continued. The Board agreed that the licence should be continued for a further six months. Mr Grilli pointed out that six months was the maximum time allowed for a further extension, and this would be the third continuation of this application. Councillor Innes suggested that if there was a change to the circumstances of the applicant before the expiration of six months then the applicant could ask the Licensing Board to consider her application earlier. The

Convenor confirmed that the applicant would require to inform the Licensing Board of any change to her circumstances.

Decision

East Lothian Licensing Board unanimously agreed to continue the application for a further six months, unless the applicant provided the Licensing Board with information regarding a material update to her circumstances.

3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – ALCOHOL LICENSING IN SCOTLAND

The Depute Clerk summarised the response from East Lothian Licensing Board to the Local Government and Communities Committee, who had asked for evidence from all Licensing Boards in Scotland regarding their focus on health in communities, and how this was reflected within Licensing Policy. He outlined that the Board were committed to the protection and improvement of the health and wellbeing of the population of East Lothian and visitors to the area. Suggested control measures that could apply to applicants and licensees, included, but were not limited to:-

- displaying material discouraging drink driving
- making information available which promoted drinking in moderation
- having a workplace alcohol policy
- extending challenge 25 checks to deliveries of alcohol
- availability and reasonable pricing of low alcohol drinks, and free tap water
- having a policy to deal with patrons who have consumed excessive alcohol
- reduction of the volume of music to protect staff and limit neighbour nuisance, and
- having defibrillation equipment on the premises or an awareness of the nearest facilities.

The Depute Clerk added that the response, collated by the Licensing Standards Officer, had also included information on Minimum Unit Pricing and mandatory conditions to limit or eradicate irresponsible drinks promotions.

Councillor Henderson added that the Licensing Board had maintained strict guidelines regarding licences for takeaways and delivery food services, and had made specific recommendations for licenced 18th and 21st birthday parties. Provost McMillan agreed, adding that there were many healthy living and healthy eating policies and projects around East Lothian.

Decision

East Lothian Licensing Board agreed to note the verbal report.

Signed

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Councillor Fiona Dugdale
Convener of East Lothian Licensing Board