

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE
20th MARCH 2007 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mr. N.B.L. DAVIS - CHAIRMAN
MR. P.R. BATTY - VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. J.C. Bown, Mrs. D. Finney, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun and Mr. C.G. Joyce.

Officers in attendance: Mr. Mark Brymer, Ms. L. Horton, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

585 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. B.H. Edwards and Mrs. S. Francks.

586 **MINUTES (LC6)**

On the motion of Mr. Hunnybun, seconded by Mr. J.C. Bown, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

587 **GAMBLING ACT 2005 – HEARINGS PROCEDURE (LC7)**

Presented to Members was a suggested procedure to be adopted in the determination of applications made under the above legislation. The Principal Licensing Officer indicated that this procedure was generally similar to that which applied in the determination of licensing applications, though representation by ward members was different under the new Act. It was emphasised that some of the responsibilities under this Act was a Council, not an Executive function. It was moved by Mrs. Finney, seconded by Mr. Hunnybun and

RESOLVED – the procedure for Licensing Committee hearings under the Gambling Act 2005 as set out in appendix A to the report of the Head of Health and Environment be adopted.

588 **GAMBLING ACT 2005 – FEES (LC8)**

The Principal Licensing Officer reported on the proposed fee structure for the determination and issue by this Authority of premises licences under the above Act.

The support of this Committee was sought to the proposed structure prior to submission to and approval by Council. It was emphasised that the suggested fees had been set at a level that enabled full cost recovery for the Licensing Authority and would be reviewed annually.

Reference was made to the fees proposed by neighbouring authorities and some Members were of the view that higher fees should be charged by this Council than those suggested in the report of the Head of Health and Environment, to afford a contingency and investment in the service.

Mr. Joyce left the meeting at 7.07 p.m. returning at 7.10 p.m.

The Head of Health and Environment indicated that there was now an additional part time resource in the licensing section to assist with the processing of these licences. Should this resource not prove to be sufficient a report would be brought back to this Committee seeking support for additional staffing and any amendments to the fees. Officers were generally happy with the suggested fees and of the opinion that any challenge against these could be met. It was emphasised that the application process would be monitored as to the time spent and officers undertook to bring a report in September on the processing of fast-track applications.

On the motion of Mrs. Finney, seconded by Mr. Hunnybun it was

RECOMMENDED – Members comments be noted but Council be requested to agree the proposed fees attached to the report of the Head of Health and Environment.

(The meeting closed at 7.18 p.m.)

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that an additional meeting of the Licensing Committee be held on 17th April 2007 for the purpose of considering a report on the delegation of functions.