

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**THE LOOM ROOM, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET, KIDDERMINSTER**

**9TH JANUARY 2006 (10.30AM)**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Mrs P V Hayward (Chairman), J Baker (Joint-Vice-Chairman) in the Chair, Mrs A T Hingley (Joint-ViceChairman), G W Ballinger, S J M Clee, N J Desmond, P Dyke, Mrs L Edginton, P B Harrison, M B Kelly and Mrs P A Rimell.

**OBSERVERS:**

Police Constable Drewitt and Sergeant Pritchard from West Mercia Police Force.

**LIC.44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: B T Glass, M M G Oborski and A D Williams.

**LIC.45 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**

No substitutes were appointed

**LIC.46 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made.

***Councillor Mrs P V Hayward arrived at the meeting before consideration of this item had taken place.***

**LIC.47 TRAINING**

As so few Members were able to attend the training session that had been arranged to follow the meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that the training would be deferred until the next meeting.

**DECISION:**

**Members undertake an hour's licensing training following the next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006.**

**LIC.48**      **MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.49**      **ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL ON LICENCES ISSUED UNDER LICENSING ACT 2003**

An annual report on licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager informed the Committee that it was a statutory provision for Councils to have a Licensing Policy Statement and that an annual report be made each year. The Policy Statement, approved by Council, which came into effect in February 2005, would run for 3 years unless there was a need to change it.

The Policy set out in broad terms the four licensing objectives:-

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

At the time the Annual Report was written the following licences had been issued:

- 344 Personal Licences
- 287 Premises Licences

A total of 25 hearings had been held and there had been 3 appeals to Magistrates (which were ongoing).

It was noted that the majority of licences granted to public houses were issued for drinking up to 2 pm. There were only 4 premises that had applied to extend their licence for beyond 2 am and only 1 for after 4 am. The licenses for later drinking had been granted mainly to hotels for late night food and drinks.

The Police had confirmed that over Christmas and New Year there had been no serious problems as a result of the licensing hours being extended and there had only been a small number of complaints to the Council. The current Policy therefore appeared to be working well.

PC Drew and Sergeant Pritchard reported that been an operational presence in town centres during the months of December 2005 and January 2006. They had received co-operation from the Licensing Association and were pleased to report that incidents that were drink-related had been low. The Police considered that they had a good working relationship with mangers of the public houses and clubs and this was proving to be beneficial.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

**The Statement of Licensing Policy should remain unchanged for the next 12 months.**

**LIC.50     APPLICATION FOR AN AMUSEMENT WITH PRIZE MACHINE PERMIT UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE GAMING ACT 1968 - WATERMILL, PARK LANE, KIDDERMINSTER**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Committee to consider an application for three amusements with prize machines at licensed premises situated at the Watermill, Park Lane, Kidderminster.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager reminded Members that the Committee was now empowered to issue licences for requests from premises for more than 2 machines that awarded prizes up to the value of £25. Previously Magistrates used to issue these licences.

A Member of the Committee suggested that when a report came to the Committee it should make clear whether it was a new application or an application to renew a licence. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager agreed that this would be clarified in future reports.

**DECISION:**

**Approval be given to for the renewal of licences relating to 3 amusements with prizes machines at licensed premises situated at the Watermill, Park Lane, Kidderminster.**

**LIC,51     APPLICATION FOR AN AMUSEMENT WITH PRIZE MACHINE PERMIT UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE GAMING ACT 1968 - PENNY BLACK, 14-18 BULLRING, KIDDERMINSTER**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Committee to consider an application for the installation of four amusements with prize machines at licensed premises situated at The Penny Black, 14-18 Bullring, Kidderminster.

**DECISION:**

**Approval be given to the installation of 4 amusements with prizes machines at licensed premises situated at The Penny Black, 14-18 Bullring, Kidderminster.**

**LIC.52 INCREASE IN FEES AND CHARGES FOR LICENSING**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that gave details of proposed increases in fees and charges for licensing activities. These proposals had been included in the Cabinet's Financial Strategy. The fees were statutory and had been recommended by the government so there was no option to change them in any way. It was noted that although some fees would stay the same, most would be increased by 3% in line with inflation.

**DECISION:**

**The proposals for fees and charges for 2006/2007 as set out in the report, be noted.**

**LIC.54 EXEMPT MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The exempt minutes of the Licensing and Environmental Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

The meeting finished at 10.55 am