

Minutes of the meeting of the LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2020 at 6.20 pm

**Present:** Councillor Marlow (Chair)  
Councillors Bowyer and Wallis

**Officers:** O Shiridzinodya (Lawyer - Litigation), A Ward (Licensing Officer) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

**Also Present:** P Baulk (applicant) and one member of the public

**LSC22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None disclosed.

**LSC23 APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION TO A CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE - THE POSTAL CLUB, REAR OF 140 QUEENSWAY, BLETCHLEY**

The Licensing Officer advised the Sub-Committee that a hearing was necessary to determine an application in respect of a Variation to a Club Premises Certificate for The Postal Club, rear of 140 Queensway, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK2 2RS.

The Licensing Officer informed the Sub-Committee that the application was for the sale of alcohol and to provide regulated entertainment until 02.30 hours on Friday and 02.00 hours on Saturday, with entertainment to cease 30 minutes earlier on each day. In addition, the Postal Club had requested an extension on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve together with any recognised sporting event, i.e. World Cup, if the hours fell outside of those requested.

The Licensing Authority had received representations against the application from Thames Valley Police, Environmental Health and two local residents in respect of the Licensing objectives of the 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder' and the 'Prevention of Public Nuisance'.

The Licensing Officer informed the Sub-Committee that, prior to the hearing, the applicant had confirmed agreement with the conditions proposed by Thames Valley Police and Environmental Health and,

therefore, the representations had been withdrawn. A revised Annex E was circulated to members prior to the hearing setting out the amended conditions.

In addition, the applicant had agreed to amend the application in order that regulated entertainment would cease at 00:30 hours on each day but not including the 24 occasions a year for 'events', when entertainment would cease at 01:30 hours, subject to conditions.

The Licensing Officer had provided the agreed conditions to the local residents who had objected to the application. One resident had subsequently withdrawn the representation as they had been satisfied the conditions addressed the concerns raised. The remaining representation had not been resolved.

The Sub-Committee noted that a representation had been received from the Leon Residents' Association in support of the application, stating that the applicant had worked well with the Association in resolving issues that had occurred in the past.

The applicant's representative had been appointed as the Chair of the Postal Club in 2019 and had taken significant measures to ensure that the licensing objectives were sufficiently promoted.

A number of complaints had been received against the Club in the past relating to potential breaches of hours and noise disturbances, but no further complaints had been received since the current Chair had been in place.

The Club was for members, and up to two guests, only, with the exception of private functions, and the renewal of membership had recently taken place. It was the responsibility of the member to ensure their guest(s) behaved appropriately.

The Club had zero tolerance against drugs and anti-social behaviour and membership would be revoked if a member, or guest, displayed signs of any such conduct.

The doorman is currently in the process of renewing the required SIA licence and a further door supervisor would be employed in the future.

The premises had undertaken a Fire Assessment Risk and smoke alarms would be fitted over the next week as part of ongoing improvements to the premises.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged that the evidence before it was that the Club had improved significantly since the new Chair had been appointed and had worked with the authorities to address

concerns. The lack of any recent complaints on record by the Council's Environmental Health team and the positive comments from the Leon Residents' Association was evidence of improvement and that the Licensing Objectives were not being undermined. The remaining representation did not provide any new evidence or further information about the concerns.

The Sub-Committee accepted that the Club had caused concerns in the past but the Club had improved its management.

Following a site visit to the premises prior to the hearing, the Sub-Committee noted that:

- (a) Lighting outside of the Club did not appear to be sufficient, and requested that the applicant address this. The applicant's representative agreed to this.
- (b) It would be helpful to assist the applicant to promote the Licensing Objectives for the applicant to provide a copy of their Fire Risk Assessment to the Licensing Authority within 14 days so that any recommendations made by Licensing Officers be implemented as soon as possible or advice sought from the Fire Service.

RESOLVED -

That the application for a Variation to a Club Premises Certificate be granted, subject to the conditions agreed by the applicant and offered within its operating schedule, together with the additional condition as outlined below:

'That steps are taken by the Club to make residents aware of who to contact at the Club in the event of anti-social behaviour and noise disturbances that may occur'.

It was not possible to put a condition on a Club Premises Certificate that the extension of hours could only apply whilst the current Chair was in situ at the Club, but the Sub-Committee acknowledged that if there is a future management change that results in the Licensing Objectives being undermined, the Licensing Authority would expect to have a review application of the Certificate brought before it.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.00 PM