



MINUTES

ALCOHOL AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 2 JUNE 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Reginald Howard
Councillor Mrs Maureen Jalili
Councillor Alan Parkin
Councillor Mrs Margery Radley

Councillor Frank Turner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Graham Wheat
Councillor Mrs Mary Wheat (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Williams

OFFICERS

Head of Environmental Health and Licensing
Clerk to the Licensing Committee
Assistant Solicitor
Environmental Health Technician (2)
Committee Support Officer

8. APOLOGIES

None received.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

10. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd May 2006 were approved as a correct record of the decisions taken.

11. LICENSING ACT 2003: APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE - MORTON VILLAGE HALL

Decision:-

That the application for a premise licence in respect of Morton Village Hall, Morton be agreed as applied for.

Note to applicant- The applicant is requested to display notices at the exits of the building requesting that people leave quietly and do not congregate outside.

The Committee had before them the Head of Environmental Health and Licensing's report ENV356 in relation to an application for a premises licence in respect of Morton Village Hall. A full copy of the application was attached at

appendix 1, including a plan showing the location of the premises. Two letters of objection and a petition had been received. These were attached at appendix 2. A further letter, in favour of the application, was circulated to Committee members at the meeting.

The Clerk to the Committee, in introducing the application, clarified the speakers. The applicants were present at the meeting.

The Chairman sought and received confirmation that the applicants had received and understood the procedure that would be followed.

In introducing his report, the Head of Environmental Health and Licensing stated that the application was for a premises licence but did not include the sale of alcohol. He reminded the Committee that two letters of objection and a petition against the application had been received. The objections complained about the possibility of loud music emanating from the premises and that younger partygoers congregated outside the premises. A letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council in support of the application was circulated to all Committee Members. Members of the Committee questioned the Head of Environmental Health and Licensing and established that there were two sets of doors on the way into the premises, which would relieve some of the potential noise nuisance. The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing stated that, prior to this application, there had been no complaints and the Environment Team had made no comments.

The applicant informed the Committee that the Village Hall was both popular and necessary for many village events. The main usages of the hall included weekly community events and village events. It was the responsibility of the booking clerk to confirm whether an event would have adequate supervision. When supervision was insufficient, events had been turned down, particularly if there had been any problems at that particular event in the past. Prior to the introduction of the provisions of the new Licensing Act, the Hall had held an Entertainment Licence, however, this was not converted during the transition period. The applicant stated that if the Committee so wished, they would be prepared to accept the times to which they were subject under the previous Entertainment Licence.

In answering the questions of the Committee, the applicant stated it was unlikely that the hall would be used until 01:00. The usual condition of hire was that the hirer ceased the event by 23:45. They felt that there were limited steps they could take to alleviate noise, particularly from people who gathered outside the building; they acknowledged that this problem could have been exacerbated by the smoking ban. Supervision of events rested in the hands of stewards, who were responsible for ensuring that the conditions of hire were met, including policing noise and that the hall was locked up afterwards. Members of the hall committee would not be present at an event or be there to lock up the building afterwards.

The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing summed up the application and reminded the Committee of the times held under the previous

Entertainment Licence (12:00 to 00:00 Monday to Saturday and 12:00 to 22:30 Sunday). The applicants also summed up. The officers and applicants left the room.

The Committee discussed the application and it was proposed and seconded that the application be granted as applied for. An amendment was moved that the application be granted until midnight on all days. This was seconded and voted upon but lost. The Committee then voted on the original motion, which was carried. It was agreed that the applicants should be requested to display a notice asking people using the hall to leave quietly and not congregate outside. The Committee also felt that the applicants should be advised to check whether their insurance was valid if no member of the hall committee was present, particularly to secure the premises after use.

The officers and applicants returned to the meeting and were advised of the decision as noted above. The applicant was advised that the licence could be requested for review at any time by any interested party.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10:08.