

Minutes

Alcohol, Entertainment & Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 19 May 2026



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Committee members present

Councillor Paul Fellows (Chairman)
Councillor Robert Leadenham (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Helen Crawford
Councillor Jane Kingman
Councillor Philip Knowles
Councillor Rhea Rayside
Councillor Elvis Stooke

Officers

Chris Clarke, Licensing Officer
Elizabeth Reeve, Licensing Office
Heather Green, Licensing Manager
Kim Robertson, Legal Advisor (LSL)
Lucy Bonshor, Democratic Officer

75. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Patsy Ellis.

76. Disclosures of interests

None disclosed.

77. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2026 were proposed, seconded and agreed.

78. Exclusion of Press and Public

Under Regulation 14(2) of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the press and public were excluded from the Hearing on the grounds that exclusion outweighs the public interest in the Hearing taking place in public.

79. Licensing Act 2003: Determination of a personal licence following conviction of a relevant offence

Decision

The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee determined that revocation of the Personal Licence was the most appropriate and proportionate step to promote the licensing objectives.

The Personal Licence Holder was not present at the meeting.

The Licensing Officer presented exempt report ENV933 which concerned the determination of a Personal Licence following conviction of a relevant offence.

Section 138 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 confirms that the decision to revoke or suspend a personal licence (following a relevant conviction or immigration penalty) may not be delegated to an officer.

The Personal Licence Holder was issued a personal licence by South Kesteven District Council in April 2021. A copy of the licence and the duties of a personal licence holder were as appended to the report.

In January 2026 the Licensing Team received an email from Lincolnshire Police following an application to become a Designated Premises Supervisor at a venue in Grantham from the Personal Licence Holder which stated that they had a relevant conviction listed on the Police National Computer. The Police asked if the Personal Licence Holder had disclosed the conviction to the Authority.

The Police contacted the Personal Licence Holder regarding the conviction and they explained the incident which they felt was not a chargeable offence.

The Licensing Officer contacted the Personal Licence Holder requesting any Police documentation or paperwork in respect of the incident to establish the nature of the conviction, to date no documentation had been received.

The Licensing Officer then read out an extract of the Licensing Act 2003, Section 132 (2) reproduced at paragraph 2.4 of the report on what a Personal Licence Holder must report to the local licensing authority in respect convictions. The

Personal Licence Holder never informed the authority of the conviction, if a relevant authority was considering whether to suspend or revoke a personal licence, they must give notice to the licence holder under Section 132 (4), this was issued to the licence holder in April 2026.

The licence holder may make representations to the Licensing Authority within the period of 28 days beginning with the day the notice was issued. Any representation may be made regarding:

- The relevant offence that has caused the Licensing Authority to issue the notice
- Any decision of a court under Section 129 or 130 in relation to the licence, and
- Any other relevant information (including information regarding personal circumstances)

The representation period took place between 9 April and 7 May 2026, no representations were received.

The Chairman asked the Licensing Officer if there was any further communication from the Personal Licence Holder regarding the incident. The Licensing Officer stated that there was nothing official.

One Member asked for clarity in relation to the relevant conviction to which the Licensing Officer responded.

The Licensing Officer then gave their closing statement. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gave Licensing Authorities a discretionary power to revoke or suspend a personal licence if a personal licence holder was convicted of a relevant offence under the Licensing Act 2017.

Under Section 132a of the Licensing Act 2003 the steps a relevant authority may take are:

- Determine that no further action is required, or
- Issue a warning letter
- Suspend the personal licence for a period not exceeding six months
- Revoke the personal licence.

In determining the matter, the licensing authority must take into account:

- Any representations made by the licence holder
- Any decision of a court under Section 129 or 130 of which the licensing authority is aware, and
- Any other information which the authority considered relevant.

(12 noon the Licensing Officers left the meeting)

Members discussed the matter before them having regard to all the relevant guidance and legislation. Clarity was sought in respect of the relevant conviction which was provided by the Legal Advisor. It was noted that the Personal Licence Holder had not attended the hearing to give any mitigation and background to the offence. Members felt that the sentence given and the fact that the Personal Licence Holder had gone to court meant the offence must have been quite serious. Further discussion followed in respect of the promotion of the licensing objectives and the sanctions available and a proposal was made to revoke the licence. The proposal was seconded and on being put to the vote unanimously agreed.

(12:09 the Licensing Officers returned to the meeting)

The Legal Advisor read out the Committee's decision. The Committee had read all the paperwork before them, relevant guidance and policies and the Licensing Officers report. The Personal Licence Holder did not attend the meeting.

The Committee noted that the Licensing Team were notified by Lincolnshire Police that the Personal Licence Holder had a conviction from 23 May 2024 which is a relevant conviction under Schedule 4 Paragraph 14 (c) of the Licensing Act 2003. They further noted that the Personal Licence Holder had not complied with the requirement to notify the Licensing Team of the conviction. They noted the email correspondence from the Personal Licence Holder advising that the incident was a domestic fallout in Spain and they did not believe it was a chargeable offence. No official paperwork had been provided.

In reaching its decision, the Committee considered the nature and seriousness of the offence, the relevance of that conduct to the role of a personal licence holder and the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder. The Committee noted that the Personal Licence Holder's information about the offence but also that no official paperwork had been provided.

The Committee considered all available options and decided that it was appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives to revoke the licence.

Where lesser steps have not been taken, the Committee considered that they would not adequately promote the licensing objectives.

There was a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the licence decision being received.

Meeting back in public session.

80. Licensing Act 2003: Review of Premise Licence - Manor Way Superstore, 73 Manor Way, Deeping St James, PE6 8PX

Decision

The Committee having considered all information before them and noting the issues at the premises, the lengthy period trading unlawfully and the lack of steps taken to regularise the position, decided for the promotion of the licensing objectives it was appropriate to revoke the licence for Manor Way Superstore, 73 Manor Way, Deeping St James.

The Chairman introduced those present and asked who would be speaking in respect of the Review before the Committee.

The Legal Advisor advised the Committee that an email had been received from ARKA Licensing who were representing the premises licence owners asking for the hearing to be postponed until after 3 June 2026 as they were not available to attend the hearing as they were out of the country.

The Committee were required to consider the request but before making any decision they asked if the barrister who was here on behalf of Lincolnshire Police wished to make comment.

The Barrister representing Lincolnshire Police, Oliver Thorne stated that Members had all the information before them about the business and the timeline that the business ownership had not been regularised in the last 12 months. He reminded the Committee that three applications had been made with two being withdrawn. One of the applications had been considered by the Committee and refused and no proper steps had been taken by the Premises Licence Holder to regularise the ownership of the business. The Police were concerned with the protracted issues with the business and by not hearing the Review today allowed the business to continue to trade and he asked the Committee to continue with the Review.

(12:18 the Licensing Officers, Police Barrister and the press left the meeting)

Members discussed whether or not to continue with the Review and felt that they were in a position to continue with the review. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to continue with the Review.

(12:22 the Licensing Officers, Police Barrister and the press returned to the meeting)

The Legal Advisor informed those present that the Committee had agreed to continue with the Review.

The Licensing Officer presented the report which was for a Review of the premises licence for Manor Way Superstore, Deeping St James which had been submitted by the Police on 23 March 2026.

The application for the Review related to the following licensing objectives:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Protection of Children from harm.

Lincolnshire Police advised that they had obtained evidence which indicated that the management of the premises had been operating in such a manner that amounts to criminal activity and undermined the licensing objectives.

- The Premise holder and Designated Premise Supervisor sold the business in June 2025 and had no further involvement in the business.
- The Review outlined the history of events which had led to the submission of the Review.

On 25 March 2026 the Licensing Manager erected a notice at the premises.

On 25 March 2026 the Licensing Manager returned to the premise to erect a further notice on the roller shutter, the original notice had been removed. The original notice was re-erected and the roller shutter notice was erected.

On 27 March 2026 a further visit was made and both signs were still visible.

A copy of the premise licence was appended to the report at Appendix 2. No representations were received during the consultation period.

Counsel for the Police then made their representation highlighting areas of concern to the Police such as the conduct of those working at the premise and incidents highlighted within the witness statements with regard to safeguarding issues which were deeply concerning.

The current Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr Alvappillai confirmed in November 2025 that he had sold the business in June 2025 and from that point he had no further involvement with its activities. Despite this the business had continued to trade from June 2025 with Mr Alvappillai as the PLH and DPS.

Whilst under Mr Alvappillai's control in November 2025, Lincolnshire Police became actively involved with the premises following concerning allegations made that month regarding a member of staff who had behaved inappropriately towards child customers. A suggestion had also been made that underage females were sold alcohol from the premises.

Police enquiries that followed raised concerns regarding the manner in which the business was operating, those individuals behind its operations and illegal working.

A series of licence transfer and DPS variation applications were then received, all of which were objected to by Lincolnshire Police. Two sets of licence transfer/DPS applications were withdrawn, however another set of applications that were objected to resulted in a licensing hearing held in February 2026 where the Committee made the decision to reject the applications.

At present, the PLH and DPS for the licence is once again Mr Alvappillai, however Lincolnshire Police are aware of further intended applications to transfer the licence and vary the DPS to the individual the Committee rejected in February 2026. Mr Alvappillai had been approached to consider surrendering the licence but had not responded despite claiming that he has no control of the premises.

It was stated that the series of applications since November 2025 had been an attempt to take full advantage of the licensing regime to keep the premise open and a revocation of the licence was sought due to the unlawful trading that had taken place during the last 12 months.

Members had no questions for Counsel.

The Licensing Officer then gave his closing statement. Members must take such steps as they considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives as outlined in Licensing Act 2003 at section 167(6):

The Committee may:

- Modify the conditions of the licence
- Exclude a licensable activity from the licence
- Remove the designated premises supervisor
- Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months; or
- Revoke the licence

Members attention was drawn to the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act as shown at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Counsel for the Police had nothing to add.

(12:27 the Licensing Officers, Counsel and the Press left the meeting)

Members discussed the Review before them having regard to all the relevant guidance, legislation and the representation made. Members were very concerned with how the premises was being run, the incidents that had occurred and the lack of co-operation with the Police and the Licensing Team. Members looked at all sanctions available to them but felt that the lengthy unlawful trading

period and the lack of steps taken to regularise the business and for the promotion of the licensing objectives the Committee had no alternative but to revoke the Premise Licence. The proposal was seconded and on being put to the vote unanimously agreed.

(12:37 the Licensing Officers, Barrister and press returned to the meeting)

The Legal Advisor read out the Committees decision. The Committee had read all the paperwork before them and had heard from the Licensing Officer and Counsel representing Lincolnshire Police. The applicant's representative had requested an adjournment of the matter, but this request was refused by the Committee.

Lincolnshire Police presented their application as set out in their evidence pack. They advised of the timeline contained with the evidence pack and noted the numerous attempts and lengthy period of time that the Police and Licensing Team had engaged with the premise to regularise the position and to take such steps as required.

The Committee considered all options available to them. They considered whether there were any additional conditions that could be included but were of the view that there were no conditions which would adequately address their concerns.

The Committee considered whether it was appropriate to remove a licensable activity from the licence but noting as there was only one licensable activity on the licence this would have the same effect as revoking the licence.

The Committee having considered the information before them and noting the issues at the premises, the lengthy period trading unlawfully and the lack of steps taken to regularise the position decided it was appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to revoke the licence. The Committee were particularly frustrated and would not tolerate the complete disregard that this premises has shown for the law despite the numerous attempts by the Licensing Team and Police to assist them.

There was a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the licence decision being received.

81. Ask Angela update

The Licensing Manager briefly updated the Committee on the trial currently being carried out in respect of the Ask Angela Campaign. Twelve premises had been contacted to be part of the trial and six were currently participating. Some of the premises contacted are already participating in the campaign as they belong to chains. Once the trial was completed the Committee would receive a report. Those organisations who were participating were spread across the district including, Grantham, Stamford, Bourne, Market Deeping and Baston.

The Officer and Vice-Chairman of the Committee were thanked for their work in respect of the Ask Angela campaign.

82. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent.

The Vice-Chairman raised the subject of holding a Workshop for the Committee and inviting representatives from Trading Standards and the Police to attend and speak about work that they undertook in respect of premises selling illegal cigarettes and alcohol to enable the Committee to better understand the work that was carried out. He asked the Committee to feedback to him directly outside of the Committee.

As this would be the last meeting that the Licensing Manager, Heather Green would be attending as she was moving on to a new job outside of the Council, the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee wished to place on record his and the Committees gratitude and thanks for work that she had undertaken in respect of Licensing and wished her well in her new job.

83. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 12:47pm.