

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2009 FROM 7.00PM TO 8.15PM**

*Present:- Pauline Helliar-Symons (Chairman), Barrie Patman (Vice Chairman),
Chris Bowring, Andrew Bradley, Gerald A Cockroft, Mike Gore, Kate Haines, Kirsten Miller,
Sam Rahmouni and Malcolm Storry*

Also present:-

*Julia O'Brien, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Rosalynd Hale, Principal Environmental Health Officer (H&S/Food)
Adrian Salmon, Trading Standards Officer
Anne Hunter, Democratic Services Manager*

PART I

21. MINUTES

The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 19 August 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Kay Gilder, Claire Stretton and Bob Wyatt.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

24. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions received.

25. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions received.

26. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Committee considered a draft Statement of Principles, considered previously at the meeting held on 19 August 2009, together with the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken during August-October 2009.

The Committee noted that during the consultation period only two responses had been received. Thames Valley Police had sent in a response of “no comment” and the Racecourse Association had indicated that due to the fact that they did not have any venues within the Borough they would not be responding.

Members queried whether the Council should make it mandatory that door supervisors should be SIA licensed but following discussion of the matter it was agreed that this was not necessary.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles, as set out in the Appendix to the report be agreed;
- 2) Council be recommended to adopt the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles.

27. PET SHOP LICENCE CONDITIONS

The Committee considered proposed amendments to the Council's Standard Conditions for Pet Shop Licences in order to prevent the trade in puppies from puppy farms.

Members noted that a number of complaints had been received concerning puppies sold at pet shops which were believed to be from puppy farms. In order to prevent this trade it was proposed to amend the standard licence conditions which would then be sent out to consultation to the pet shop trade within the Borough and other interested bodies. The results of the consultation would be reported back to the Committee in due course.

During discussion of the matter Members queried what the penalties would be if the conditions were broken and were informed that a fine would be imposed and the shop would have its licence revoked. The Committee noted that the conditions would be imposed in several ways including inspection by the Council's vet, on a yearly and ad hoc basis, by the Animal Warden and if complaints were received by Environmental Health Officers.

RESOLVED: That a consultation exercise be undertaken with the pet shop trade in the Borough and other interested bodies, on a set of additional standard conditions as set out in the Appendix to the report.

28. FOOD LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Committee received a presentation from Rosalynd Hale, Principal Environmental Health Officer, on the work of the Health and Safety and Food Safety Enforcement Team which enforces legislation covering these areas in all food businesses throughout the Borough.

During the presentation Rosalynd went through the work of the Team which amongst other things included carrying out food safety and accident inspections and advising on risks at events. Members were also informed about the "Scores on the Door" project which was undertaken using the results of risk based inspections and noted that the number of five star rated premises had gone up from 41 to 157 and the number of zero star rated premises had gone down from 28 to 9.

Rosalynd also provided information on the work of the Food Standards Agency and the Health and Safety Executive both of which carry out audits on all local authorities to ensure that they are meeting the correct standards.

RESOLVED: That the Food Licensing and Health and Safety presentation be noted.

29. TRADING STANDARDS

The Committee received a presentation from Adrian Salmon, Trading Standards Officer, on the work of the Trading Standards Team in relation to food.

During the presentation Adrian informed the Committee that the Trading Standards Team dealt with products not premises and focussed primarily on the following areas:

- Compositional standards, eg ensuring that the minimum meat content was adhered to;
- Labelling of products to ensure that they were accurate and not misleading in any way;
- Authenticity of food to ensure that substitutions had not been made;
- Contamination, eg ensuring that food was not contaminated by metals, chemicals or toxins.

Adrian also reported on the “Parmesan” project which was set up to ensure that products were correctly described eg if free range eggs or home made soup were included on a menu that these were what was actually served.

RESOLVED: That the Trading Standards presentation be noted.

30. HEARINGS UPDATE

Members noted that since the last Committee meeting one school transport appeal, a Dual Driver licence appeal, a Private Hire School and Community Services Driver Licence appeal and two appeals against penalty points on driver licences had taken place. The Committee also noted that a Personal licence appeal had been adjourned.

The Committee also noted that a school transport, a personal licence and two street trading consent appeals were due to take place in the near future.

RESOLVED: That the hearings update be noted.

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

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