

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 4th June 2021 at 14:00 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors E Ashby, N Brown, G Nair and S Walker.
Also present: A Shanley (Clerk)

1. Election of Chair of the Licensing Committee

The Clerk advised that Cllr L Brown has had to resign as both Chair and a Member of the Parish Council's Licensing Committee owing to her new role as Chair of the Licensing Committee at Durham County Council and the inevitable conflict this will involve. The meeting put on record its thanks to Cllr L Brown for her contribution to the Licensing Committee.

Cllr Susan Walker was elected as Chair of the Parish Council's Licensing Committee. Proposed by Cllr N Brown and seconded by Cllr E Ashby.

2. Election of Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee

Cllr N Brown was elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council's Licensing Committee. Proposed by Cllr S Walker and seconded by Cllr G Nair.

3. Welcome and apologies

None received.

4. To receive any declarations of interest from members

Cllr E Ashby declared an interest in the ongoing application by Durham Food Store Ltd.

5. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 25th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items.

None received.

7. Update on recent licensing applications

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had now received amendments to the plans for the Durham Food Store application as follows:

From 24 hours to only proposing to sell alcohol Friday into Saturday morning until 3am and Saturday into Sunday morning until 3am, all other days would remain at 11pm in accordance with his current premises licence.

Members considered this amendment and **agreed** to maintain the objection to this application.

The Clerk also advised that a hearing date had now been set for 16th June 2021 for the Tesco application on Claypath. It was **agreed** that Cllr Susan Walker should represent the Parish Council in objecting to this application at the hearing.

8. Progressing the licensing training event

The Clerk advised that the Institute for Licensing has now confirmed that they are able to provide a trainer for the licensing training event. The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council has agreed a fund of £1,000 towards hosting this event for Councillors and members of the public. Member agreed that this should go to the next Full Parish Council meeting as a proposal with costs associated with each trainer provided in a report to Council.

9. Progressing the best run licensed premises in Durham City award

The Clerk advised new Members of the Committee that the Parish Council has agreed to launch a best run licensed premises award for Durham City. The Clerk advised that, in agreeing to launch this competition, the Parish Council agreed the following criteria for the competition:

- A premises award ran by Durham Students Union as part of a joint initiative with the Parish Council.
- Does the premises promote the Shhh 11pm to 7am campaign?
- How well does the premises engage with the local community?
- How well does the premises promotes a positive community cohesion?
- Positive contribution to the street scene.
- Is the premises "dogs and children friendly"?

The Clerk also advised that it was agreed that Helen Johnson at DCC licensing and Siobhan Jones at Durham Police be asked to be part of the judging panel for this competition. It was also **agreed** at this meeting that Cllrs E Ashby, G Nair and S Walker be part of this judging panel.

10. Proposal to request that an online licensing portal be established by DCC.

The Clerk advised Members that the Parish Council, in November 2019, requested that the County Council takes steps to establishing a new online licensing portal, so as to make licensing more accessible and transparent to the public.

The Clerk advised that, at that time, the Parish Council took the view that a public search site, for example that provided by IDOX and which mirrors the County Council's own planning portal, was imperative to ensure transparency for alcohol licensing in County Durham. Such a site would allow members of the public the ability to search, comment on and track applications made in their locality and would further increase public awareness of such applications.

At present, the information available on new licensing applications on the County Council website is very limited and does not provide members of the public with a lot of relevant material needed to properly consider an application. The Clerk advised that DCC's Licensing team had been very accommodating during the pandemic and has been providing the Parish Council with electronic copies of the relevant documentation with applications, etc.

The Clerk advised that the response from DCC in 2019 was that such a portal is not immediately possible but is something that they are looking into.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should again request that a licensing portal be introduced as a priority by DCC.

11. To consider the following licensing applications:

Application for the grant of a premises licence - Durham Sausage Company Unit 36 The Riverwalk, Durham. DH1 4SL. It was **agreed** to object to this application under all four of the licensing objectives.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. H. White', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Licensing Committee