



East Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Committee

Held at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE at 10:00am
on Wednesday 12th March 2025

Present:

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith
Cllr Charlotte Cane
Cllr Lavinia Edwards
Cllr Martin Goodearl
Cllr Julia Huffer (Chair)
Cllr Bill Hunt (substitute for Cllr Keith Horgan)
Cllr Kelli Pettitt
Cllr John Trapp
Cllr Gareth Wilson

Officers:

Stewart Broome – Licensing Manager
Maggie Camp – Director Legal

In attendance:

Karen Wright – ICT Manager

24. Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Keith Horgan, Cllr Mark Inskip, Cllr James Lay and Cllr Alison Whelan.

Cllr Bill Hunt attended as a substitute for Cllr Keith Horgan.

25. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26. Minutes

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2024.

It was resolved unanimously:

That the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 20th November 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

27. Chair's announcements

There were no Chair's announcements.

28. Primate Licensing

The Committee considered a report, Z142 previously circulated, that updated Members on the introduction of a new Primate licensing scheme, which stated that private residents would only be permitted to keep primates if they were housed to zoo level welfare standards.

The Licensing Manager explained that some pertinent information was still awaited from the Government, but the Council had to agree the legislation by 1 April 2025. The regulations regarding enforcement would come into force on 1 April 2026. He reported that all the vets in the district had confirmed that they did not have any primates on the register, so the impact of this legislation was likely to be negligible. However, the enforcement of this legislation was a statutory responsibility for the Council.

Cllr John Trapp arrived at 10:05.

The Licensing Manager explained that Primate licences could be issued for up to three years, with inspections carried out every year by a qualified officer and a vet. The inspection fee would be separate from the application fees, as the cost of inspections would be dependent on the number of primates at the premises and would need to be determined on a case-by-case basis. The fees detailed in paragraph 4.6 of the report would be reviewed annually, as they should cover the costs of the scheme.

The Chair then invited Members to ask questions.

In response to a question from Cllr Gareth Wilson, the Licensing Manager explained that the premises would be licensed and if the licence holder moved, the new premises would have to be reinspected and a new licence would need to be issued.

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith asked if the inspection processes would be particularly sophisticated, due to the intelligence of primates. The Licensing Manager explained that whilst the inspection process would be similar to other inspections, the applicant would be refused a licence if they were assessed as being an unsuitable person to own a primate. There was an appeal process.

In response to a question from Cllr Martin Goodearl, the Licensing Manager explained that one licence would be issued for each premises, regardless of the number of primates. The inspection fee would be higher if the applicant owned more than one primate.

Cllr John Trapp asked if the Council would be comparing its policy with other authorities before setting its fees. The Licensing Manager explained that the fees would be set locally by this Council and would be reviewed annually to ensure that it covered the costs.

In response to a question from Cllr John Trapp, the Licensing Manager explained that the wording in the appendix regarding the licensing conditions was taken from the legislation.

Cllr Gareth Wilson asked how the Council would ensure that any primate owners would be made aware of the new legislation. The Licensing Manager replied that he would be liaising with our Communications section regarding this matter. However, the vets in the district had informed the Council that no primates had been registered with them. If there were any primate owners in the area, they were irresponsible people, who had not registered their pet and were unlikely to want to apply for a licence.

In response to a question from Cllr Martin Goodearl, the Licensing Manager replied that currently primates in zoos would not need to apply for this licence, as the new legislation only covered private ownership. Further guidance was expected from the Government on this issue.

The Licensing Manager explained that whilst there was no requirement for a council to inform a neighbouring authority that a primate owner had moved administrative areas, he worked closely with other Cambridgeshire authorities, and they would inform each other of such a move. The Chair suggested that there should be a national register of primate keepers.

It was resolved unanimously:

That Members **AGREED** to note the content of the report and agreed to implement the fees shown in paragraph 4.6.

29. Licensing Manager's update

The Committee considered an oral report that updated Members on current and emerging issues relating to Licensing both locally and nationally.

The Licensing Manager reported that officers in the section were working towards year end, and the department was in a sound financial position. They were looking to recruit additional staff as part of the expansion project, and the Committee would receive an update at its next meeting. The number of current licences that had been awarded by the Council was holding steady and the impact of the cost of living crisis was being monitored, as fewer profitable businesses would mean fewer licence applications, particularly in the hospitality industry.

The Licensing Manager reported that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill was still being considered by Parliament. It remained unclear if this authority or Trading

Standards would be responsible for enforcement. An estimated 80% of establishments with an alcohol premises licence will need a tobacco and vape licence.

It was noted that licences for tattoo and skin piercing establishments were being dealt with by the commercial team but a decision could be made to transfer responsibility to the licensing team.

Later this year the Licensing Act policy would be reviewed.

It was resolved:

That the Licensing Manager's Update be noted.

30. Forward agenda plan

The Committee received its Forward Agenda Plan. It was agreed that it was not necessary to hold a meeting in April and the next meeting would be held on Monday 12 May at 10 am.

It was resolved:

That the Forward Agenda Plan be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10:31am

Chair.....

Date.....