



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 18th June 2025

Present:

Cllr Chika Akinwale (substitute for Cllr Charlotte Cane)
Cllr Christine Colbert (substitute for Cllr Mark Inskip)
Cllr Lee Denney
Cllr Martin Goodearl (Vice Chair)
Cllr Keith Horgan
Cllr Julia Huffer (Chair)
Cllr Bill Hunt (substitute for Cllr Lavinia Edwards)
Cllr Kelli Pettitt (substitute for Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith)
Cllr Alan Sharp (substitute for Cllr Mark Goldsack)
Cllr John Trapp
Cllr Christine Whelan
Cllr Gareth Wilson

Officers:

Patrick Adams – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Stewart Broome – Licensing Manager

In attendance:

Karen Wright – ICT Manager

1. Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith, Cllr Charlotte Cane, Cllr Lavinia Edwards, Cllr Mark Goldsack and Cllr Mark Inskip. Cllr Chika Akinwale attended as substitute for Cllr Cane. Cllr Christine Colbert attended as substitute for Cllr Inskip. Cllr Bill Hunt attended as substitute for Cllr Edwards. Cllr Kelli Pettitt attended as substitute for Cllr Ambrose Smith. Cllr Alan Sharp attended as substitute for Cllr Goldsack.

Apologies were also received from Maggie Camp, Director Legal.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The Committee received the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 12th March 2025 and the Minutes of the Licensing (Statutory) Sub Committee on 19th May 2025.

It was resolved unanimously:

That the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 12th March 2025 and the Minutes of the Licensing (Statutory) Sub Committee on 19th May 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

4. Chair's announcements

There were no Chair's announcements.

5. Licensing Act 2003 - Licensing Authority Statement of Licensing Policy – Five Year Revision

The Committee considered a report, AA9 previously circulated, that invited the Committee to approve the revised draft version of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, as laid out in Appendix 1. The Licensing Manager explained that the Policy needed to be reviewed every five years, and the new Policy had to be agreed in January 2026 after six weeks of consultation from 21st June to 1st August. The current Policy had served the Council well, advising applicants, officers and the Committee and so only minor amendments were required.

Cllr John Trapp stated that he had some minor textual amendments that he would share with the Licensing Manager. He recommended that the four licensing objectives that were shown on page 23 and page 39 of the agenda be included in a box to draw attention to their significance.

On the suggestion of Cllr John Trapp, it was agreed that the words "those who do not share them" in paragraph 1.17A, be amended to "those who do not have them."

The Licensing Manager explained that applicants who had missed the notice period of 10 clear working days could still apply for a late temporary event notice, providing it was within 5 clear working days of the event. There was no appeal process for late temporary event notices, so if a responsible authority objected, the event could not happen. There was a limit to the number of late temporary event notices that an applicant could apply for in a year.

In reply to Cllr John Trapp, the Licensing Manager explained that poker came under the exempt gaming rules of the Licensing Act 2003, even though there was skill involved, and it was not simply a game of chance.

In reply to Cllr Christine Colbert, the Licensing Manager explained that the serving of food was not directly relevant to restricting access for children to a premises. It was noted that a Sub Committee could add a condition to a premises to restrict access for children, usually beyond a certain time.

In reply to Cllr Chika Akinwale, the Licensing Manager confirmed that paragraph 1.17A protected pregnant women from discrimination. He agreed that they would be added to the list of protected characteristics.

It was noted that this Policy would be considered again by the Committee in September, after the end of the consultation period. It would then be taken to full Council for approval in October.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- A)** Approve the draft version of the Statement of Licensing Policy at Appendix 1, with minor grammatical corrections and the amending of the words “who do not share them.” in the first sentence of paragraph 1.17A to “who do not have them.”
- B)** A statutory public consultation taking place on the draft Statement of Principles for Licensing from 21 June 2025 to 1 August 2025 in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

6. 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 work on the tobacco and vape legislation was progressing through Parliament and was expected to be in force by late 2026 or early 2027. It appeared that local authorities, and not Trading Standards, would be responsible for this.

The Licensing Manager was waiting for guidance from DEFRA on primate licensing. The Council had not received any applications for a primate licence, but it was possible that a rescue centre, that would cater for primates, would be established in the district.

The Licensing Manager reported that driverless taxis were likely to be licensed by the Driver and Vehicles Standards Agency (DVSA) in 2026 and the role of local authorities in this area had not yet been decided. It was understood that driverless taxis were likely to focus on the larger cities in Britain.

It was noted that licensing fees would be reviewed in the autumn.

It was resolved:

That the Licensing Manager’s Update be noted.

7. Forward agenda plan

The Committee received its Forward Agenda Plan.

It was resolved:

- A)** That the Forward Agenda Plan be noted.
- B)** That the next meeting due to be held on 9 July 2025 at 10 am be cancelled.
- C)** That the next meeting will be held on 10 September 2025 at 10 am.

The meeting concluded at 10:26 am

Chair.....

Date.....