



Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held at Virtual Meeting via Zoom on Monday 26 July 2021 at 10.00 am.

Present Councillor Andrew Kilbride (Chair)
 Councillor Sally Beardsworth
 Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere

Officers Stephanie Broomfield, Licensing Enforcement Officer
 Maisie McInnes, Democratic Services Officer
 Alan Parr, Licensing and Litigation Lawyer

14. Appointment of Chairman for the meeting of the Sub-Committee

The Democratic Services Officer opened the meeting and invited Councillors to appoint a Chair of the Sub-Committee Hearing. It was proposed by Councillor Sally Beardsworth and seconded by Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere that Councillor Andrew Kilbride be appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee Hearing.

Resolved

(1) That Councillor Andrew Kilbride be appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee Hearing.

15. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

16. Premises License Hearing

At the Chair's invitation, the Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the application for a variation to the premises license for Towcester Racecourse, London Road, Towcester, NN12 6LB. As detailed in the report, the Licensing Enforcement Officer explained that the Towcester Racecourse is a greyhound and racing events premises that currently holds a license that permits them to hold a maximum capacity of five thousand people, as displayed in the licence at appendix 1 of the report. The application for the premises licence variation was submitted by Hills Licensing LTD, on behalf of Henlow Racing LTD to West Northamptonshire Council on 11 June 2021. The application requested an increase in the maximum capacity to 9999 and to allow the consumption of alcohol to be taken off the premises as displayed in appendix 2 of the report.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer summarised the consultation process and the responses received by the respective authorities contained in section 5.0. The Licensing department had also received 4 objections from members of the public which were at appendix 4 of the report. The Licensing Enforcement Officer asked the

sub-committee to note the planning restriction on the main gate as a result of planning application S/2011/1219/MAF in 2011.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer concluded her report and the Chair invited any objectors present at the meeting to make their representation. Councillor Sandy Sawyer, representing Paulerspury Parish Council and residents, addressed the sub-committee and expressed concerns regarding noise complaints with the sound of dogs barking at early hours in the morning, and complaints relating to traffic and public safety. Mr Kerry Hollowell also addressed the sub-committee and echoed the concerns raised by Councillor Sandy Sawyer and added that litter was also an issue surrounding the site and suggested that the A5 entrance be used to alleviate traffic concerns.

The Chair then invited the applicant to make their representation, Geraldine Kovac, the Head of Operations addressed the concerns raised and explained that the complaint regarding noise from dog barking had been looked into and this would no longer be an issue as trainers would not be moving the dogs to another site early in the morning. In terms of litter, she assured residents that all alcohol would be served in plastic containers and regular scheduled litter picks would continue to take place after events.

The Chair invited the sub-committee to ask any questions. Members asked questions relating to the number and the welfare of dogs kept on site, if litter picks were only scheduled after events and if any of the residents had contacted highways. The Head of Operations, Geraldine Kovac responded that dog welfare was a priority and that greyhounds were rehomed and protected after they retired from racing and currently 100 dogs were on site. She confirmed that litter picks were scheduled the day after meetings and spot checks were taking place but not frequently due to staffing. Residents responded that they had not spoken to highways, and hoped that a response would be provided through the Council.

The sub-committee adjourned to make their decision and the meeting reconvened at 11:07am.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee refused the application due to:

- Safety issues surrounding increase of persons to 9,999
- Only one entrance is insufficient for up to 9,999 attendees

The meeting closed at 11.08 am

Chair: _____

Date: _____

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL
ALCOHOL LICENSING COMMITTEE
NOTIFICATION OF DETERMINATION

TOWCESTER RACECOURSE – Henlow Racing Ltd

The licensing authority, West Northamptonshire Council, received a report on the application for a variation of a premises alcohol license at Towcester Racecourse, London Road, Towcester NN12 6LB by the license holders Henlow Racing Ltd.

The application was considered by the Licensing Committee at their meeting on 26 July 2021 held by Video Link. The hearing was conducted as per the Committees standard procedures.

The committee heard from :

Stephanie Broomfield – West Northamptonshire Council Licensing Enforcement Officer

Ms Broomfield read the Report to the Committee.

Objectors –

Sandy Sawyer
Mr Hollowell

Objectors reiterated the points raised in written representations contained within the Report, in particular in relation to noise, traffic problems, off-sales and littering of the local roads.

Ms Kovac, for the applicant, and committee members clarified points raised by objectors and expressed concerns relating to no response from Highways.

Geraldine Kovac – Head of Operations for Henlow Racing Ltd

Ms Kovac made representations including providing the operation of the racecourse and the business in support of the application. Included explanation of barking dogs in the morning and how training has been amended to address the problem. Explained conditions already in place, such as use of serving drink plastic receptacles. Have persons in place to do litter-picking along local roads.

Questions from objectors regarding litter-picking and use of gates/traffic-flow.

Committee Members clarified points raised, specifically in regards to numbers of dogs on-site, dog welfare, litter-picking and number of visitors.

Summing – up

Objectors and Ms Kovac summed up their representations.

The Committee received legal advice as follows:

- The options available to the committee are laid out in the report and the Committee must consider which option, in their consideration, is reasonable based upon this hearing.
- The decision must be made solely by the committee members and only by those members who have heard the whole application.
- The Committee must take such steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives;
 - The Prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public Safety
 - the prevention of public nuisance
 - the protection of children from harm
- To ensure natural justice, the Committee should give reasons for their decision.

The Committee made the following findings of fact:

Applicant has agreed police additional conditions. Highways is a separate planning issue. 9,999 people is a large logistical increase in use of the premises.

The Committee resolved:

The Licensing Authority refused the application.

The reason for the Committee's decision are as follows:

- Safety issues surrounding increase of persons to 9,999
- Only one entrance is insufficient for up to 9,999 attendees

Dated 26 July 2021.