

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board held by Video Conference on Wednesday, 2 September 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, Marie McNair and Brian Walker.

Attending: Raymond Lynch, Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board, Peter Clyde, Licensing Standards Officer and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer.

Also attending: Dr Emilia Crighton, Head of Health Services Section, Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Apology: An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Millar.

Councillor Ian Dickson in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in the item of business on the agenda.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Ian Dickson, Chair, advised that the powers contained in terms of Section 133 of the 2005 Act, as amended by the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, would be used to enable Members and parties to attend remotely and that the meeting of the Board could not be held in person due to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) emergency.

The Chair then made direction that no photography or recording of the proceedings would be made by any party without the Chair's prior approval. He also directed Members and parties on the use of mute during the meeting, and to indicate their intention to speak by using the 'raise hand' functionality available to them.

PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING BOARD MEETING

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Dickson, the Licensing Board approved the Hearing Procedure for the meeting to be held by video conference.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of the Licensing Board held on (a) 3 June 2020 and (b) 30 June 2020 were submitted and approved as correct records.

LICENSING BOARD ANNUAL FUNCTIONS REPORT 2019 - 2020

A report was submitted by the Clerk to the Licensing Board seeking approval of the Board's Annual Functions Report in relation to the functions of the Board 2019 - 2020.

Having heard the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board and the Licensing Standards Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to approve the terms of the Functions Report for 2019-2020 as detailed within the appendix of the report.

DECIDED:-

The Board agreed to approve the terms of the Functions Report for 2019-2020 as detailed within the appendix of the report.

LICENSING BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019-2020

A report was submitted by the Clerk to the Licensing Board advising of the terms of the Board's Statement of Income and Expenditure in relation to its liquor licensing functions for 2019-2020.

Having heard the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board in further explanation of the report, the Board agreed to note the terms of the Financial Statement 2019-2020 as detailed within the appendix to the report.

DECIDED:-

The Board agreed to note the terms of Financial Statement 2019-2020 as detailed within the appendix of the report.

LICENSING BOARD MEETING DATES

A report was submitted by the Clerk to the Licensing Board seeking agreement of proposed future meeting dates of the Licensing Board following agreement of the Council and committee timetable up to September 2021.

DECIDED:-

Having heard the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board in further explanation of the report, the Board agreed to approve the undernoted meeting dates up to September 2021 to fit with the committee timetable agreed at the meeting of Council on 24 June 2020:-

- Tuesday, 3 November 2020 at 2.00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m.
- Wednesday, 24 March 2021 at 2.00 pm.
- Wednesday, 9 June 2021 at 2.00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 1 September 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

VERBAL UPDATE BY DEPUTE CLERK ON BOARD'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Depute Clerk, Mr Lynch, provided an update on the Board's activities to date in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Having heard the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board and following discussion, the Board noted the undernoted points:-

- That the Scottish Government had issued additional guidance to licensing authorities on the granting of occasional licences;
- That delegated authority had been given to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Board to approve applications for outside drinking areas where there are objections and/or representations on such applications;
- That regular daytime and evening visits had been made to licensed premises by the Chair of the Licensing Board, licensing officers and officers from Police Scotland over the past few months to offer guidance to Licensed Premises and advise on Scottish Government Guidance and that was being followed by Licensed Premises. In addition the Chair and the Depute Clerk had visited premises applying for licences for outdoor drinking areas prior to any such licences being considered for grant;
- That weekly updates continued to be provided to Members of the Licensing Board on applications made for outdoor areas to be licensed and to premises where licences had been granted on a temporary occasional licence basis;
- That in general the vast majority of licence holders had been adhering to guidance issued by the Scottish Government and disseminated by the Council and Licensed Premises had made attempts to comply with COVID-19 guidelines which would continue to be monitored over the winter months; and
- That licensed premises had been complying with the public health requirements of Track and Trace now that it was a mandatory requirement.

Following discussion and having heard from Dr Crighton, Head of Health Services Section, Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, it was agreed:-

- (1) to note that to date, there was no evidence of transmission of Covid-19 which had been linked to a licensed premises in the area and that this would continue to be monitored;
- (2) to note the importance of reinforcing social distancing and control measures to allow licensed premises in the area to remain open and to avoid having to impose extensive control measures across all licensed premises in the area; and
- (3) that Licensing Standards Officers, together with Police Scotland and Environmental Health officers where appropriate, would continue to visit licensed premises in the area to ensure compliance with guidance and that the Council would use as required Statutory powers where necessary for public safety and in terms of the legislation.

The meeting closed at 2.20 p.m.