

## Application to review the premises licence – 62 Corn Street

### Additional Information

1. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the proposed new designated premises supervisor, Roman Mirecki, attended a meeting with Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards. Key points from the meeting can be summarised as follows:
  - He has lived in the UK since 2010. He lives in Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.
  - He originally worked in a hotel bar after moving to the UK and this is when he obtained his personal licence. He then ran a licensed premises in London and acted as the DPS for this premises.
  - He is currently a director of an alcohol wholesale business which is based in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The business specialises in Polish beer. (The address for this company is the same address as that of a business that Jacek Mazurek was previously a director of)
  - In his capacity as a company director, he works between 40 and 50 hours a week.
  - When asked how he became involved in Witney Polish Deli, he said *“Just like I know the owner, so just I met him a few years ago in the taxi. So he asked me to help him. And I decided just like yes sure, because we are supplying that shop before, I said yeah, ok, no problem at all, I can help you with that.”*
  - When asked who the owner was he said Krzysztof Swirczewski. When asked how long this man had been the owner of Witney Polish Deli, he answered *“I’m not sure. I think he’s the new owner, isn’t it.”* He said that Krzysztof lives in Southampton. He later said that Krzysztof Swirczewski is the joint owner with Robert Wroblewski. He said he also knew Robert through using taxis in Southampton.
  - At the time of our meeting, he had not been to meet the staff at the shop. He had also not visited the shop since agreeing to be the DPS for the premises. He said he had previously been there to deliver alcohol for his alcohol supply business.
  - He said he knew the previous owner of the business, Jacek Mazurek, he knew that there were issues with the premises, but didn’t know exactly what kind of issues.
  - When asked about his motivation for being the DPS of the premises, given that he is already busy with his own business, he said that he is doing it as he likes Krzysztof Swirczewski. He said *“is a favour let’s say you know, they are buying from me I’m just like, I can just like give my document to them and I’m going to have a loyal customer let’s say”*. He said he won’t be paid for being the DPS but it is mutually beneficial as they will only buy beer from him.
  - When told about the previous issues that the premises had in relation to illegal tobacco he said it will be a *“new start, new people, new management, I’m pretty much sure they will not be putting me in the dark corner, let’s say.”*
  - He said that he was not aware that the premises licence for Witney Polish Deli was being reviewed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January.
  - When asked if he would allow Jacek Mazurek to work in the shop, he said *“No, of course not”* and *“no I would not”*.

2. On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the proposed new premises licence holder, Robert Wroblewski attended a meeting with Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards. Key points from the meeting can be summarised as follows:

- He has lived in the UK for the last 20 years
- He is a self-employed taxi driver and has worked in the industry for 12 years
- He lives near Southampton
- He has no previous experience working in, managing or owning a licensing retail premises
- He does not possess personal licence but may attempt to obtain one in the future
- He could not remember how he had come to hear that Witney Polish Deli was for sale
- He has known Jacek Mazurek for 12 years via the taxi trade and has kept in touch with him off-and-on but only "once in a blue moon pretty much"
- His motivation for buying Witney Polish Deli is to do something different and because the taxi trade is in decline
- He said he "couldn't answer that at the moment" when asked when he intended to move to Witney
- He planned to continue working as a taxi driver for the time being as, because he was self-employed, he could work flexible hours
- He did not know how many days he expected to be in the shop per week
- An existing member of staff, Ewa Wieckowska, is to be appointed the day-to-day manager but he did not know her yet, he was following the suggestion of Jacek Mazurek
- All the existing staff will be kept on for the time being
- Jacek Mazurek will be helping him out until the sale of the business is completed and Mr Mazurek will continue to work in the shop. He said that he hopes he can trust him
- The purchase price has not been agreed yet and there is nothing in writing confirming the intention to purchase the business and he advised that the purchase is contingent on the premises licence not being revoked
- The landlord has not yet been contacted in relation to the viability of transferring the lease
- The new designated premises supervisor, Roman Mirecki, was someone he had met through his taxi but cannot remember when he met him
- Jacek Mazurek had told him that Mr Mirecki held a personal licence
- He said it was a coincidence that he had met Mr Mirecki through his taxi yet Mr Mirecki was also the wholesale supplier of beers to Witney Polish Deli
- He said he didn't know how many times a week Mr Mirecki would be at the shop
- He didn't know how Mr Mirecki would combine the role of DPS with running his existing alcohol wholesaler business in Hemel Hempstead
- In relation to age-restricted sales, he was not aware of the Challenge 25 age verification system, saying "I have never heard of it"
- In respect of running licensed premises, Mr Wroblewski said "I haven't got a clue"
- The person Mr Mirecki had described as the new owner, Krzysztof Swirczewski, was meant to be a business partner but "he's not going to be involved at all now"

- When asked why he did not wait for the outcome of the review before, potentially, submitting his own new premises licence application to be judged on its own merits, he said "I sussed out it was easier and quicker to transfer the licence than get a new licence"
- He was strongly advised to attend the review hearing and was encouraged to contact West Oxfordshire District Council Licensing as soon as possible

3. On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the Trading Standards Service made a purchase of dry goods from Witney Polish Deli. The receipt issued is headed "Witney Polish Deli Ltd". The sole director and person with controlling interest listed on Companies House on this date is Jacek Mazurek.

4. Also on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Mr Wroblewski was contacted by telephone to advise him that additional evidence would be submitted to him by email and a hardcopy delivered to the shop. Mr Wroblewski explained that he would not be able to attend the review hearing as he would be busy with taxi customer commitments. He also advised that Roman Mirecki would also be busy and unable to attend. Mr Wroblewski was advised that it was strongly in his interests as premises licence holder to be in attendance or, if that was not possible, to arrange for someone to represent his interests at the meeting. It was suggested that either Jacek Mazurek or Ewa Wieckowska may be able to fulfil this role given their ongoing roles in the running of the shop. Mr Wroblewski advised that he make enquiries and contact the West Oxfordshire District Council accordingly.

# WITNEY POLISH

## DCU LTD

62 Corn Street Witney  
Oxfordshire OX28 6BS  
M:07773009006

REG 14-01-2019 11:10  
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1 Bread	£1.25
1 Canned Food	£0.79
TL	£2.04
CASH	£5.00
CG	£2.96

Opening hours:  
Mon-Sat 9am-8pm  
Sun 11am-4pm  
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