

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Licensing Committee**

Held in the Council Chambers, Woodgreen, Witney at 2.00 pm on **Tuesday, 19 October 2021**

PRESENT

Councillors: Norman MacRae MBE (Chairman), Harry Eaglestone, Ted Fenton and Lysette Nicholls.

Officers: Michelle Bignell (Service Leader (Licensing)) and Amy Bridgewater-Carnall (Democratic Services Manager).

6 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7 Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Cahill, Owen Collins, Steve Good, Andy Graham, Dave Jackson and Geoff Saul.

8 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest noted.

9 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman addressed the meeting and advised Members that this was the last meeting that the Service Leader (Licensing), Michelle Bignell, would be attending with West Oxfordshire District Council. Councillor MacRae thanked Michelle for her help and guidance over the past six years and wished her every success in her new role.

The Chairman then introduced Alison Gardner, who would be taking over part of the role previously held by Michelle.

10 Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles (Policy) Review 2021

The Committee received a report from the Service Leader (Licensing) which asked them to consider any issues raised in the consultation with stakeholders and the public on the Council's Draft Revised Gambling Act 2005 Licensing Policy Statement and consider amendments to the Policy prior to adoption.

The report reminded Members that the Council was required by the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) to publish a Gambling Policy (Licensing Policy Statement) and review the policy every three years. The current statement had been approved by the Licensing Committee on 2 October 2018 and formally adopted on 31 January 2019. A copy of the current Council policy was attached as Annex B to the report.

The Licensing Committee considered the draft policy at its meeting in May 2021 and agreed that it should be put out to formal consultation for a period of 12 weeks. A copy of the revised Statement of Principles was attached at Annex A to the report and it was noted that no consultation responses had been received.

The report highlighted that S.166(1) of the Act stated that a Licensing Authority may resolve not to issue casino premises licences. Such a recommendation was made by the Licensing Committee at its meeting held on 15 October 2012 and subsequently approved by Council on 24 October 2012. Notwithstanding all the Casinos had been allocated by Central Government, S.166(3) of the Act stated that this resolution would expire after three years and

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the Council would need to formally re-affirm at this time that a “no-casino resolution” was still in place.

The Service Leader (Licensing) introduced the report and explained that the only minor change had been to remove any reference to Publica, making the document more West Oxfordshire District Council focused. The officer also provided clarification on the statutory process required in relation to the ‘no casino’ resolution.

Having considered the report and having heard from the officers present, the Committee

Recommended that

- a) Council adopt the revised Statement of Principles; and
- b) Council continues to adopt a “no- casino resolution” for inclusion in the published Gambling Act 2005 Licensing Policy Statement.

The Meeting closed at 2.05pm

CHAIRMAN