

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON THURSDAY, 24th OCTOBER 2013 AT 10.00AM

Present:

Councillor R Williams - Chairperson

Councillors

P A Davies
E Dodd
D R W Lewis
J E Lewis

Councillors

P James
H E Morgan
D G Owen
G Thomas

Officers:

Y Witchell - Licensing and Registration Officer
K Watson - Legal Officer
J Monks - Democratic Services Officer - Committees

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Members for the reasons stated:

Councillor G W Davies - Unwell
Councillor R D Jenkins - Hospital Appointment
Councillor P N John - Unwell
Councillor B Jones - Family Commitment
Councillor E Venables - Family Commitment

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

31 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 9th May 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

That the minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 22nd May 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 26 should include apologies for absence from Councillor P James.

32 SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 2013

The Licensing and Registration Officer presented a report to brief the Committee on the implementation of the new legislation relating to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act. The increase in metal theft over the past few years and the resultant impact on the local communities had led to a regulatory reform of the scrap metal sector. Scrap metal thefts had a devastating effect across a range of sectors, which included transport, religious and heritage buildings, and telecommunications. The 2013 Act would replace the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, which

had restricted the power of Councils and Police to regulate and ensure compliance, as dealers were only required to register with a local authority.

The Licensing and Registration Officer referred Members to paragraph 4 of the report, which outlined some of the changes due to be implemented as a result of the introduction of the Act. She informed the Committee that suitability tests would be carried out for those applicants with convictions, or who had previously been refused a licence, permitting the Authority to consult with partners prior to the decision making process. There would also be a requirement by all scrap metal dealers and collectors to keep records of transactions, thus outlawing payments of cash for metal. This would set up an audit trail and allow Police and Council Officers to investigate and inspect licensed premises and take copies of records, should any stolen metal come to light. The Act would also provide the Police and Councils with the power to issue closure notices on sites and would ultimately have the power to revoke a license.

She advised that during the transitional licensing process, those registered sites and individual scrap metal collectors currently trading within the Borough, would be able to continue trading until a new license had been determined. She reported that there had been a total of 14 applications to date from businesses and collectors who were trading, which were in the process of being acknowledged and would go out to consultation.

She reported that the function was currently delegated to Cabinet as an executive function; however the Home Office intended to vary the function to Council, which would be devolved down to the Licensing Committee. During the interim period, the function had been delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services.

She concluded by informing Members that preliminary discussions would take place with the South Wales Police on enforcement and risk management, and at that point procedures and fees would be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That the Licensing Committee noted the report.

The meeting closed at 10.20am.