



SOUTH NORFOLK LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the South Norfolk Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee of South Norfolk Council, held on Friday, 15 March 2024 at 10.30 am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: J Easter (Chairman), K Cross and I Spratt

Officers in Attendance: A Cox (Licensing & Enforcement Officer), J Gowland (Legal Advisor - Birketts) and J Hammond (Democratic Services Officer)

Also in Attendance: Mr Uddin – Licence Holder
Mr Allin – Barrister for Licence Holder
Mr Webber – Trainee Barrister for Licence Holder
CIO Davies – Home Office
Cllr C McConnell
1 member of the public

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

28. APPLICATION TO REVIEW A PREMISES LICENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the procedure for determining the application to review the premises licence.

The Licensing and Enforcement Officer outlined her report and drew attention to the key areas for member consideration.

The Applicant presented their case and responded to questions from the Panel and Agent for the Licence Holder.

The Barrister for the Licence Holder presented their case and alongside the Licence Holder responded to questions from the Panel, Applicant and Legal Advisor.

All parties were given the opportunity to make their closing statements.

The Applicant, Licence Holder, Barrister for the Licence Holder, Licensing Officer and members of the public left the meeting at 12.03pm whilst the Panel determined the application. They were then readmitted to the meeting at 1.08pm and the Solicitor advised that all parties would receive the decision in writing within five working days.

It was,

RESOLVED

That,

In its deliberations, the Sub Committee gave consideration to the following:

- An alleged breach of the crime and disorder objective by employing illegal workers at the premises;
- The licence holder's submissions;
- The lack of any previous warnings;
- Sections 11.27 and 11.28 of the Guidance recommends revocation where the objectives are undermined through the premises being used to further crimes;
- Illegal working has harmful social and economic effects in the UK, exploiting migrant workers and undercutting other businesses operating within the law;
- Questioning the management's ability to promote the licensing objectives

In reaching its decision the sub-committee had regard to the steps that were appropriate to promote the licensing objectives, the representations made by all parties, revised guidance issued under Sec 182 Licensing Act 2003 and the Councils Licensing Policy.

The Committee's decision was to suspend the licence for a period of one month and to add the conditions below:

- The employer must carry out checks relating to the right to work of their employees at The Raj, 23 Bridge Street, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6NA and any prospective employees before entering into a contract of employment;
- No new member of staff will be able to work at the premises (including any trial period) unless they have provided satisfactory proof of identification and right to work;
- All documents for members of staff will be retained for a period of 12 months post termination of employment and will be made available to police, immigration or licensing officers on request.

Should the Licence Holder be aggrieved by the decision, they had a right of

appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the date on which they were notified of the decision in writing.

The Panel's decision would not come into effect until the end of the period for appealing the decision or after any appeal had been heard.

(The meeting concluded at 1.09 pm)

Chairman