



Licensing Sub-Committee

Mon 15 Dec
2014
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all formal Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agendas and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees

(or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.

- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, on request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.

A reasonable number of copies of agendas and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its, Committees etc.

- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, most items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council's Website:

www.redditchbc.gov.uk

If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact the following:

**Pauline Ross
Democratic Services
Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 881406
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Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Democratic Services Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Democratic Services Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Democratic Services Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.

COMMITTEE PROTOCOL – LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Each application that comes before this Sub-Committee will be treated on its own merits. This licensing authority will make its decision based on the merits of the application and the promotion of the four licensing objectives, namely:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm,

and will also have regard to the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Redditch Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy.

Members of the Sub-Committee will meet prior to the hearing to note matters to be presented, assisted by the legal and administrative support Officers only. The actual application will not be discussed.

LICENSING HEARING PROCEDURE

The Hearing

1. The Chair will open the meeting, outlining the nature of the decision to be taken, and will identify the members of the Sub-Committee and Council Officers present.
2. The Chair will then ask all parties present for that agenda item to introduce themselves.
3. The Chair will give a brief outline of the procedure to be followed at the hearing.
4. The Licensing Officer will present the report, outlining any relevant representations and relevancies to the Redditch Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy and Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.
5. The Licensing Officer may be questioned by members of the Sub-Committee and, if given permission by the Sub-Committee, the other parties present.

(Similar rights of questioning will apply, with the Sub-Committee's permission, in relation to paragraphs 7, 9 and 11 below.)

6. The Applicant / Licence Holder and / or his / her representative will speak in support of the application.
7. The Applicant / Licence Holder and / or his / her representative may be questioned by members of the Sub-Committee.
8. Any witnesses called, with due notice, by the applicant will, with the permission of the Sub-Committee, then make representations to the Sub-Committee.

(Similar rights will apply in relation to witnesses called by other parties.)

9. The witnesses may be questioned by members of the Sub-Committee.

10. Any person who has given notice that they wish to make representations to the Sub-Committee will be invited to do so, having stated the nature of his / her interest in the matter.
 - (a) In the case of any person who has made representations but fails to attend, the hearing will normally proceed, taking into consideration the written representations, but ensuring appropriate weight is given to the representations.
 - (b) No person wishing to make representations may raise any ground or objection at the hearing not previously referred to in the written submission, unless all parties give their consent to this.
11. Once a person making representations has concluded their case, he / she may be questioned by the members of the Sub-Committee Committee.
12. The Licensing Officer will be invited to make a closing statement.
13. Any persons who have made representations will be invited to sum up.
14. The Applicant / Licence Holder and / or his / her representative will be invited to sum up.
15. The Chair will announce an adjournment of the hearing in order for the Sub-Committee to make its decision. The decision will be made in private and the Chair will, in accordance with the legal framework given in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, move to exclude all parties present, with the exception of the members of the Sub-Committee and the legal and administrative support Officers, from the Sub-Committee's deliberations. Normally the Sub-Committee, legal adviser and committee administrator will withdraw from the room.
16. The Sub-Committee may return to the meeting room to seek clarification on any point. The Sub-Committee, legal advisor and committee administrator will then withdraw again.
17. The Chair may depart from the above procedure if he / she considers it is in the interests of natural justice to do so, either of his / her own volition or upon application by any party. Before doing so he / she shall invite the views of the parties present and consider any representations that may be made.

Decision

18. The hearing will reconvene, all parties being recalled.
19. The Chair will announce the decision, together with reasons for it in public at the conclusion of the hearing, together with any conditions placed upon the licence and the licensing objective they relate to.
20. The decision will be confirmed in writing to the Applicant / Licence Holder and his / her representative (if appropriate), and to the other parties to the hearing, and also to the Chief Officer of Police, as soon as is practicable after the hearing.

Notes

1. *Any changes in Sub-Committee membership will be given at the beginning of the meeting.*
2. *Each party will be limited to a maximum time of ten minutes in which to make representations to the Sub-Committee. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Chair. If an extension is agreed, all parties are to be allowed the same time to make representations. Where appropriate, if several parties wish to make the same representation, a spokesperson may, by consent, be appointed, in which case the spokesperson is to be allowed the same period of time as other representatives. If a spokesperson is not appointed, the amount of time must be shared between the persons wishing to make the same representation.*
3. *Any person wishing to make representations and Applicants / Licence Holders can be represented by a legal representative (at their own expense) or by a Councillor.*
4. *Late representations and evidence will only be considered with the agreement of all parties present.*
5. *Parties to the hearing will not normally be entitled to cross-examine any other party unless given permission by the Sub-Committee to do so.*
6. *The Sub-Committee may require any person attending the hearing, who in its opinion is behaving in a disruptive manner, to leave the hearing and may:*
 - *refuse to permit that person to return; or*
 - *permit that person to return only on such conditions as the Sub-Committee specify,**but such person may, before the end of the hearing, submit in writing any such information which they would have given orally had they not been required to leave.*
7. *Decisions will generally be taken regardless of whether the applicant is present.*
8. *In cases where a decision cannot be given at the end of the hearing, the Sub-Committee will make its decision within 5 working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held, and will inform the applicant as soon as is practicable thereafter of its decision.*
9. *Applicants have a right to appeal, details of which can be obtained via the Licensing Officer.*
10. *It is not the general policy of the Council to enter into discussions or correspondence on matters relating to the hearing or any decision made at the hearing.*
11. *Any irregularity resulting from any failure to comply with any provision of the relevant Regulations before the Sub-Committee has made a determination shall not of itself render the proceedings void. In the case of such irregularity, the Sub-Committee shall, if it considers that any person may have been prejudiced as a result of such irregularity, take such steps as it thinks fit to cure the irregularity prior to determination.*
12. *Clerical errors in any document recording a determination of the Sub-Committee or errors arising in such document from accidental slip or omission may be corrected by the Sub-Committee.*
13. *Parties are not normally permitted to cross-examine or question other parties at Licensing Sub-Committee hearings except with the permission of the Sub-Committee. It is important that questions should not be hostile or seek to unfairly undermine the position of any party.*



LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

15th December 2014

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Alan Mason (Chair)

Pattie Hill (Vice-Chair)

John Witherspoon

(Reserve Member) – Natalie Brookes

1. Chair's Welcome	The Chair will open the meeting and welcome all present.
2. Apologies	To receive apologies for absence and the details of any Councillor nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member listed.
3. Declarations of Interest	To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.
<p>4. Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence - Punch Taverns Plc in respect of Steps Bar & Bistro, 163 Evesham Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5EN</p> <p>(Pages 1 - 66)</p> <p>Steve Jordan, Head of Regulatory Services</p>	<p>To consider an application for a variation to a Premises Licence made by Punch Taverns Plc in respect of Steps Bar & Bistro, 163 Evesham Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5EN.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(Headless Cross & Oakenshaw Ward)</p>