

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the LICENSING BOARD held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015 at 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Baillie Buchanan; Councillors Black, Hughes, McLuckie, McNally, Nicol and Ritchie.

CONVENER: Councillor Nicol.

ATTENDING: Clerk; Consumer Protection Manager; Solicitor (P Gilmour); Licensing Assistant (C Henderson), and Committee Services Officer (A Fraser).

ALSO
ATTENDING: Licensing Standards Officers (D Frood and T Ross).

LB63. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Nimmo and Turner.

LB64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

LB65. MINUTE

The minute of the meeting of the Licensing Board held on 7 January 2015 was approved.

LB66. APPLICATIONS FOR VARIATION TO PREMISES LICENCES

There was submitted report (circulated) dated 8 January 2015 from the Clerk to the Licensing Board providing details of applications made in terms of section 29 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 for the grant of a variation to the premises licence for (1) Alloa Road Convenience Store, 168 Alloa Road, Stenhousemuir, and (2) The Orchard Hotel, 2 Kerse Lane, Falkirk.

Alloa Road Convenience Store, 168 Alloa Road, Stenhousemuir

Having heard from the applicant in support of the application and in clarification of questions raised by Members, the Board **GRANTED** the following variation to the current licence, namely:-

- (1) to vary the layout plan showing an increase in the size of the existing display area;
- (2) to vary the operating plan to reflect an increased capacity of 1.58m³, and
- (3) to the addition of recorded music within and outwith core hours.

The Orchard Hotel, 2 Kerse Lane, Falkirk

Having heard from the applicant's agent in support of the application and in clarification of questions raised by Members, the Board **GRANTED** the following variations to the current licence, namely:-

- (1) to amend the layout plan following the extension of the premises on the ground and basement floors to create a new café bistro section with ancillary back of house facilities in the basement area;
- (2) to increase the capacity to 172;
- (3) to vary the access areas for children and young persons in relation to restaurant/bistro area, as follows:
 - children who are consuming a meal must vacate the premises by 2300 hrs (this restriction does not apply to resident children or young persons). Children and young persons attending a pre-booked function will be entitled to stay on the premises for the duration of the function. Children and young persons will only be permitted in the public bar area until 1800 hrs for the purpose of consumption of a meal or whilst awaiting a table in the bistro area or restaurant,
 - children and young persons are permitted in all public areas of the premises. Children who are consuming a meal must vacate the premises by 2300 hrs (this restriction does not apply to resident children or young persons). Children and young persons will only be permitted in the public bar area until 1800 hrs for the purpose of consumption of a meal or whilst awaiting a table in the bistro area or restaurant.

LB67. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS' – VERBAL REPORT

The Licensing Standards Officers gave a verbal summary of issues affecting the licensed trade at present.

The Board were advised that since the introduction of Scotland's new lower drink drive limits, those working in the licensed trade, both on and off-sales, had reported a reduction in sales, especially mid-week and Sunday evenings.

After discussion, the Licensing Board **agreed** to invite Police Scotland to the April meeting of the Board to present a report giving an update and statistical information on the impact of the lower drink drive limit.

Reference was made to the reduction of post office services within off-sales premises and the possible need for variations to current operating and layout plans. License holders were looking to utilise and diversify their premises both during and outwith core hours to enhance trade.

Information was also presented in relation to the on-going work between the Licensing Standards Officers and the trade to ensure that training records are in order, up to date and easily accessible, when requested.

The Board **noted** the information provided.

LB68. CONSUMER PROTECTION MANAGER - VERBAL REPORT

The Consumer Protection Manager referred to the Equalities Strategy which had been approved by the Board in October 2013 and thereafter, approved by the Equality and Human Rights Commissioner. In line with one of the actions in the strategy, which is to increase board members and licensing board staffs' understanding and awareness of equality duties/issues, she had emailed details of the Council's equality e-learning module to members and staff.

In order that the Board can evidence that they have a greater understanding of equality, Alison Barr requested that all members undertake the training to ensure that this could be included in the Equalities mainstreaming report, which would be presented to the board in March 2015.

To further enhance members' knowledge of equality issues, it was proposed to invite a representative from Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC) to attend a future meeting of the licensing board.

Alison also advised that an interactive workshop event for bowling club members would be held in April 2015. This event would primarily be to increase awareness and knowledge of the role and duties of office bearers, personal licence holders and designated premises managers. The licensing section is keen to promote understanding of the licensing regime within this type of establishment.

There is the potential to hold another workshop towards the end of 2015 for the licensed trade in general.

The Board **noted** the information provided.