

Minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 12th December 2012 from 7.00 p.m. to 7.25 p.m.

Present: Chris Hersey (Chairman)
Mims Davies (Vice-Chairman)

David Dorking
Kathleen Dumbovic*
Bruce Forbes
Richard Goddard

Ginny Heard
Margaret Hersey
Jim Knight*
Jacqui Landriani

Bob Mainstone*
Gary Marsh*
John O'Brien*
Peter Reed
Emily White

* Absent.

11. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 4

The Committee noted that no substitutes had been appointed in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4 – Substitutes at Meetings of Committees etc.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Dumbovic, Jim Knight, Marsh, Mainstone and O'Brien.

13. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Declarations of Interest were made.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th July 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. REVISED ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT CONDITIONS

The Committee received a set of revised licence conditions for commercially run animal boarding establishments for cats and dogs across the district.

Yvonne Leddy, Business Unit Leader for Environmental Health and Building Control introduced the report and explained that, under Section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, the Council has the power to licence animal boarding establishments.

She informed the Committee that a set of draft guidelines incorporating the five "needs" for animal welfare contained in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 have been issued by the Pet Care Trade Association, in conjunction with representatives of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and it is now proposed to incorporate these guidelines within MSDC's conditions to take effect on 1st January 2013.

In response to questions from the Chairman of the Committee regarding the ratio of animals to staff and the non-compliance to regulations, the Business Unit Leader explained the procedures currently in place and added that, if there are any concerns

the Licensing Officer would suggest lowering the ratio of dogs to people and she assured the Committee that procedures currently in place are robust.

The Business Unit Leader confirmed that Licensing applications are received in December and come into effect from the 1st of January every year and she is confident that all 11 establishments currently licensed by this authority will comply with the proposed change to the regulations.

In response to a question from a Member regarding indoor housing of dogs, the Senior Licensing Officer explained, for the benefit of Members, how the kennels are laid out. The dogs are placed in a controlled run during the day and are shut indoors at night. He added that most of the establishments in Mid Sussex have land on which they can exercise the dogs. He also, in response to a question from another Member, explained the difference between the construction of a dog and cat kennel.

He added that all establishments have processes in place to cover all eventualities and that dogs can be kept in isolation, should the need arise.

The Chairman took Members to page 9 of the report and referred the Committee to paragraphs 10 and 11 of Appendix 1, the proposed new conditions. He proposed that these two paragraphs be combined and made more robust. The final wording to be agreed in consultation with him, as Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman. This was supported by the Committee.

In response to a question from the Vice-Chairman regarding complaints, the Senior Licensing Officer confirmed that no complaints had been received since 2009 and there is nothing outstanding.

In response to a question from the Chairman regarding publicising the new licensing conditions, the Business Unit Leader said that an article will be placed on the front page of the Council's website with a link to the new conditions.

In response to a question regarding home boarding, the Senior Licensing Officer informed that Committee that there is a set of model conditions advertised which are different to commercial premises. He explained that dogs are not allowed to be housed in kennels outside because of barking etc. Currently there are 13 licences. Dog walking is not licensed although parts of this District are controlled.

The Chairman then took the Committee to the recommendation and it was agreed unanimously to adopt the revised licence conditions with effect from 1st January 2013, subject to the wording of paragraphs 10 and 11 being combined and the remaining paragraphs being renumbered.

RESOLVED

That the revised licence conditions for animal boarding establishments, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and adopted with effect from 1st January 2013, subject to items 10 and 11 of Section 3 being combined and reworded in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

16. LIQUOR LICENSING PANEL MINUTES

It was noted that the Liquor Licensing Panel Minutes of 26th October and 19th November 2012 would be circulated to the next meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Chairman.