

Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Sub-Committee** held in the **Ditchling Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Thursday, 22 September 2016** at **2.08pm**

Present:

Councillor I Lington (Chair on election)
Councillors P Gander and J Harrison-Hicks

Officers Present:

Mr T Hayward, Committee Officer
Ms S Lindsey, Licensing Officer
Ms M Wilkinson, Lawyer

In Attendance:

Mr L Godfrey, Barrister acting on behalf of the Licence Holder, The Trek Nightclub
Ms J Irving, Sussex Police
Mr P Savill, Barrister acting on behalf of Sussex Police
Sergeant Vokins, Sussex Police

Minutes

1 Election of Chair of the Sub-Committee

Resolved:

- 1.1 That Councillor I Lington be elected Chair of the Sub-Committee for the duration of this meeting.

2 Application for Summary Licence Review for The Trek, Blatchington Road, Seaford BN25 2AF

The Chair outlined the procedure that the meeting would follow.

The Sub-Committee considered Report No 133/16 and associated documents from Sussex Police which included a certificate under section 53A (1) (b) Licensing Act 2003, which related to an Application for a Summary Review in respect of The Trek Nightclub, Blatchington Road, Seaford BN25 2AF, that had been served in the Council on Tuesday, 20 September 2016 at 16.15 hours by

Action

Sussex Police.

The Application was accompanied by a Superintendent's Certificate certifying that, in his opinion, the Trek Nightclub was associated with serious crime and serious disorder.

The service of the Application accompanied by the Superintendent's Certificate automatically triggered the summary review process following which there was a 10 working day consultation period, with a full Review Hearing of the Licensing Sub-Committee being held within 28 days.

Additionally, as the Application was accompanied by the Superintendent's Certificate, the Licensing Sub-Committee must, within 48 hours of receipt of the Application and Certificate, determine whether it was necessary to take interim steps pending the holding of the Review Hearing.

The interim steps that the Licensing Sub-Committee must consider taking were:

1. Modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
2. The exclusion of the sale of alcohol by retail from the scope of the licence;
3. The removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor;
4. The suspension of the Licence.

Such interim decision needed to be made by 16.15 hours on Thursday, 22 September 2016.

Sergeant Vokins and Ms J Irving of Sussex Police; and Mr P Savill, who was a Barrister acting on behalf of Sussex Police, provided oral evidence in support of the Application for a Summary Review of the Licence.

Mr L Godfrey, who was a Barrister acting on behalf of the Licence Holder of The Trek Nightclub, gave oral evidence to oppose the Police request to suspend the licence and support the retention of his client's premises licence.

The Sub-Committee considered the relevant licensing objectives, the guidance, the Police application, the representations made on behalf of the premises licence holder at the meeting and the rules of natural justice in its consideration as to whether it was necessary to take any of the interim steps as outlined in paragraph 1.6, and other places, of the summary guidance.

The Licensing Officer outlined the future review process.

Resolved:

- 2.1** That the premises licence of The Trek Nightclub, Blatchington Road, Seaford BN25 2AF, be suspended pending a full review hearing and that the suspension commence at 12.00 noon on 23 September 2016.

DSD
(Licensing
Officer)

Reasons for the Decision:

The Sub Committee believe that the suspension of the licence is the only appropriate course of action considering the recent serious incidents of crime and disorder and the history of incidents of crime and disorder at the premises and considered that no other interim measure would address the immediate problems and, in particular, deal with the likelihood of further incidents.

The meeting ended at 3.31pm.

I Linington
Chair