

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Monday 3rd September 2012

Time: 10.00am

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House

Present Councillors, Councillors D Kissane (Chair), L Chester, M Gardner, C Latif
M Mckay and J Pickershill.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 10.00 a.m.
End Time: 11.29 a.m.

****** PART I**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Councillors L Harrington, C Hurst,
L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley and P Stuart.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – 20 JUNE 2012.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to noting that Councillor L Chester's attendance at the meeting should be recorded strictly as an observer

3. PROCEDURE NOTE

Noted

4. APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE: MARTINS NEWSAGENTS, 65 CANTERBURY WAY

The Chair welcomed all parties to the hearing and introduced the Members of the Committee.

The Clerk introduced the applicant and their Solicitor, the petitioner's representative, the Police and Licensing Officer.

The Licensing Officer informed Members that Martins Newsagent were presently operating as a small retail outlet and that the issues for consideration before the committee was first in relation to the provision of the retail sale of alcohol(off premises) and secondly the opening hours. Officer advised that as part of the application process, the applicant had served a copy of their application to the nominated responsible authorities and had advertised their application by way of a notice and also placed a public notice in a local paper.

Following these submissions, representations were received from Hertfordshire Constabulary which had concerns especially with the opening hours recommending a 20.00hrs closing time. Officer advised the Committee that as part of the consultation process, the applicants were in discussion with Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The Chair thanked the Licensing Manager and invited representations from the Petitioners representative, Mr Watson and Mr Shah. Their main concerns were with the potential increase in anti social behaviour among the youth the late opening hours for sale of alcohol.

The Solicitor advised the Committee that as a large outfit with over 700 stores around the country, the applicants were aware of their responsibilities in the community. He noted that to address anti social behaviour concerns, applicants were willing to change the opening hours from 6.00am to 8.00pm and would ensure that alcohol is displayed within the retail area where it can be easily supervised by a combination of direct staff supervision and or CCTV.

The Chair thanked all parties and invited both Mr Watson and Mr Shah to address the Committee. Mr Watson noted that the grant of a premises licence would not address anti social behaviour concerns. The solicitor noted the applicant's concession in relation to opening hours and the use of well trained staff throughout trading hours.

After each party had summed up their case, the Chair asked all parties to leave the meeting room whilst the Committee considered the evidence presented.

Following due consideration, all parties were invited back into the meeting

The Committee had considered all the evidence from the Licensing Officer, the applicant and objectors.

Having considered all the evidence, It was **RESOLVED** that Premises Licence be GRANTED subject to the following conditions:

- The premises opening hours will be 6am to 8pm Monday – Sunday.
- The premises licence holder will not display alcoholic products at the front of the store, at either side of entrance - exit door.
- A minimum of two staff on the premises from 6pm to 8pm each day.
- No seasonal variational changes on non standard timings.
- The terms and conditions of the licence shall be in accordance with the Licensing Act application from Martin McColl Limited dated 5 July 2012.

The Chair advised all parties of their right to appeal this decision to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the hearing date.

5. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None