

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held at County Hall, Usk on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** County Councillor: L. Guppy (Chairman)

County Councillors: R. Chapman, R.J. Higginson, J. Prosser, B. Strong and P. Watts.

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr D. Jones	-	Head of Regulatory Services
Mr C. Rann	-	Senior Licensing Officer
Mrs P. Perkins	-	Legal Assistant
Mrs N. Perry	-	Democratic Services Officer

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors R. Edwards, D. Evans, M. Hickman, S. Howarth, A. Webb and F. Taylor

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

3. The minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The Head of Regulatory Services requested that Members inform the Licensing team should they see or be notified of the scrap metal dealer whose application was refused at the previous meeting of the Licensing Committee trading in the county.

#### **REPORTS FROM THE SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER**

4. We received the following reports presented by the Senior Licensing Officer:

**i) Application for an Annual Block Street Trading Consent for Chepstow Town Centre.**

We received an application in respect of a Block Street Trading Consent for Chepstow Town Centre.

The Chairman welcomed the applicant to the meeting and introduced Members of the Committee and the attending Officers.

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The Committee were asked to consider the application received from the Town Clerk for Chepstow Town Council to trade on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00. The locations requested were as follows:

- |  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| • Beaufort Square                                | - | 4 pitches  |
| • Bank Square                                    | - | 2 pitches  |
| • Cormeilles Square                              | - | 10 pitches |
| • High Street (adjacent to Gatehouse)            | - | 1 pitch    |
| • High Street (subject to road closure in place) | - | 10 pitches |
| • Library Place / Manor Way                      | - | 3 pitches  |

We were informed that the High Street trading would be subject to road closures in order to create a pedestrianised area and would be more likely to take place on the last weekend of the month. However, should the consent be granted the area could be used on the days requested (as above).

The Town Clerk expressed that the Town Council aims to encourage and promote a local producers market in the area, popularity of this was increasing. This would be encouraging to local farmers and producers, and would provide low cost local produce to shoppers in Chepstow. It was felt that it would create a higher footfall throughout the town centre.

The Head of Regulatory Services stated that stall-holders would struggle, noting their produce can often be of low value, to cover the day fee of £41, if charged individually. The new proposed scheme would bring all traders under the Town Council which would mean a better level control. We were informed that the ward Member was very supportive of the proposals

During discussion it was noted that Members felt the initiative was commendable and a good initiative. It was agreed that the market and stalls enhance the town and increase trade.

A Member recommended that the Town Council seek advice from the Local Chamber of Trade or the Chamber of Commerce regarding the differences between the rates being paid by traders and stall holders. Also the placing of stalls would be of important consideration, to avoid the sale of similar produce next to retail shops. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council were working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Marketing Committee. The Clerk stated that feedback from traders had proven positive, including a recent flea market that had brought more trade to the town.

The Legal Assistant asked the committee to note that should there be a need for a traffic order to be in place, this would be a lengthy and expensive process.

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A Member recommended that market stall applicants should be reminded that they would be required to comply with trading standards and food hygiene regulations.

The Committee resolved to accept and approve the application.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

5. We noted the date of the next meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee as Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 10am at County Hall, Usk.

**The meeting ended at 10.30am.**