

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2024

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs P M Bryant (Chairman)

Councillor Ms F Burgess (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: I Bastable, Mrs S M Bayford, S Dugan, M J Ford, JP,
N R Gregory, D J Hamilton, Mrs P Hayre, Mrs K K Trott and
Mrs S M Walker

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Ingram and Ms S Pankhurst.

2. MINUTES

(1) Minutes of meeting of the Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee held on 30 January 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(2) Minutes of meeting Friday, 2 February 2024 of Licensing Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Panel held on 02 February 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(3) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 28 February 2024 of Licensing Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Panel held on 28 February 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs S Walker declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of item 6 on the agenda as she is a Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees of Portchester Community Centre, Portchester Parish Hall and Burr ridge Community Centre.

Councillor M J Ford, JP declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of item 6 on the agenda as he is a Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees at Victory Hall in Warsash.

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 6 on the agenda as she is a Council appointed representative at the Lockwood Community and Sports Association.

Councillor Mrs P Hayre declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of item 6 on the agenda as she is a Council appointed deputy representative on the Board of Trustees at Crofton Community Association.

Councillor S Dugan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of item 6 on the agenda as he is a Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees at Crofton Community Association.

Councillor Mrs K K Trott declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 6 on the agenda as she is a Council appointed representative at Wallington Community Association.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. STATUTORY REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Councillor Mrs S Walker declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of this item as she is a Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees of Portchester Community Centre, Portchester Parish Hall and Burrige Community Centre.

Councillor M J Ford, JP declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of this item as he is a Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees at Victory Hall in Warsash.

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of this item as she is a Council appointed representative at the Lockwood Community and Sports Association.

Councillor Mrs P Hayre declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of this item as she is a Council appointed deputy representative on the Board of Trustees at Crofton Community Association.

Councillor S Dugan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of this item as he is a Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees at Crofton Community Association.

Councillor Mrs K K Trott declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of this item as she is a Council appointed representative at Wallington Community Association.

The Committee received a report by the Assistant Director (Democracy) which updated members on the Statutory Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places.

As there was no discussion nor debate about the use of specific community centres as polling stations listed above, all councillors remained in the room and took part in the decision.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee:

- (a) agrees the statutory notice, as set out in Appendix A to the report, and the timeline for the statutory review;
- (b) considered the proposed scheme of polling places, as set out in Appendix B to the report; and

- (c) delegates authority to the Assistant Director (Democracy), following consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee and the Returning Officer, to make any minor amendments to the proposed timeline in order to meet the statutory review in the event of the UK Parliamentary General Election being called before the review is completed.

7. FAREHAM & GOSPORT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation by the Head of Environmental Health which provided members with an update on the Fareham and Gosport Environmental Health Partnership. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

In discussing this item it was noted that significant cost savings have been made for both Councils since the Partnership was established in 2012. However, the Head of Environmental Health advised that going forward, the ongoing pressure to deliver further cuts in expenditure will be much more difficult to achieve. There has been a recent resignation in the Food Safety team which will present challenges for the team if difficulties are encountered in recruiting a replacement.

The Committee noted the evident, and ongoing success, of the Partnership and enquired whether, in the light of the new administration at Gosport Borough Council and the recent dissolution of the Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council Partnership, Gosport Borough Council is still committed to the continuation of the Partnership. The Head of Environmental Health advised the Committee that the new administration at Gosport is indeed committed to the Partnership and has recently resolved that it should continue. The Head of Environmental Health highlighted that there would be significant operational and cost implications for both Councils if the Partnership were to be dissolved.

During discussion on the scope and capacity of the Partnership, the Committee raised concern that there has been recent news coverage that Environmental Health Departments are not fulfilling their statutory duties due to budget cuts and staffing shortages. The Head of Environmental Health reported that Fareham is one of the better performing councils in terms of the key area of Food Inspections. The backlog that was created due to the Covid-19 Pandemic has been cleared and the team is currently achieving over 90% of inspections completed.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee notes the content of the presentation.

8. LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report by the Head of Environmental Health which presented an opportunity for members to review the Work Programme for the current municipal year and to finalise a proposed draft Work Programme for 2024/25.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee:

- (a) notes the progress on actions arising from the meeting of the Committee held on 30 January 2024, attached as Appendix A to the report;
- (b) reviewed the Work Programme for the 2023/24 municipal year, attached as Appendix B to the report;
- (c) approves the proposed draft Work Programme for 2024/25, attached as Appendix C to the report; and
- (d) agrees to submit the proposed draft Work Programme for 2024/25 to Council for approval.

(The meeting started at 6.01 pm
and ended at 6.53 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date