

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LICENSING HEARING**

At a virtual meeting of the **Licensing Hearing** held at 2:00 pm on Thursday, 25 June 2020.

**PRESENT**

Councillor I Hutchinson  
(In the Chair)

**COUNCILLORS**

T Cessford  
R Gibson (Reserve)

W Pattison

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

M Bulman  
T Hardy  
K Norris  
D Wilson

Solicitor  
Licensing Manager  
Democratic Services Officer  
Trading Standards and Animal  
Health Manager

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

L Bowlt  
J Castleman  
S Cochrane

B Gleave  
G Nutting  
H Thompson

Amble Neighbourhood Officer  
Applicant  
Northumbria Police Licensing  
Co-ordinator  
Supporter  
Supporter  
Solicitor for Northumbria Police

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

Councillor Pattison proposed that Councillor Hutchinson be elected as Chair of the meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Cessford.

Ch.'s Initials.....

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ian Hutchinson be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

## **2. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

The Chair asked for it to be noted that, although he had the same surname as one of the supporters, he was not related to him.

## **3. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

### **Application of a premises licence in respect of The Cock & Bull, Queen Street, Amble, NE65 0DQ (the premises)**

The Chair outlined the rules of the hearing and procedure to be followed at the meeting.

On a point of order and, in fairness to all parties, the Council's Solicitor, advised that an hour and a half ago the Government had released the Business and Planning Bill which was currently before Parliament and was proposing temporary changes to licensing laws to allow more licensing premises to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises, ie. 'off sale' with a raft of other provisions in that legislation.

In respect of the 'off sales' part of the Bill, the Government was proposing that any licensed premises who had a premises license for 'on sales' prior to a date to be announced, would automatically be entitled to conduct 'off sales' from the licenced premises during their licensable hours and it was proposed this would take place until 30 September 2021. She did not have any timescales as to when that could become law but information on the internet indicated the Government was hoping to get the Bill through Parliament as soon as possible.

In terms of this Hearing, there was an application for 'off sales' from the premises so it was prudent to bring this information to the applicant's attention as he might wish to consider taking some legal advice regarding the implications of the Bill. To clarify it was pointed out that if the Subcommittee refused the application that day then it appeared from the proposed legislation that the applicant would not be able to use 'off sales' under this new Bill.

At that point the applicant requested an adjournment as he had not had sufficient time to read the document and he would like to take some legal advice.

The Chair asked Northumbria Police and all interest parties whether they had any objections or representations to make regarding the request for an adjournment.

Northumbria Police confirmed that they did not have any objections to the request for an adjournment but suggested that the applicant may wish to provide further information to the Subcommittee regarding how the pop up beer garden would work, as insufficient information had been provided with the application.

After further discussion, the Council's Solicitor advised that, if the Panel agreed that the meeting should be adjourned, it would be in the applicant's best interests to provide the Licensing Section with that information again to ensure that it had been received and to provide it to Northumbria Police so that any issues could be raised in advance of another meeting.

There were no other representations or objections to the request for an adjournment.

At 2.25 pm Members of the Subcommittee and the Legal Adviser retired to a separate meeting to consider whether the application for an adjournment should be granted.

At 2:48 pm Members of the Subcommittee and the Legal Adviser returned to the meeting.

The Subcommittee determined to **GRANT** an adjournment and that another meeting be arranged within 28 days. The applicant was advised to seek legal advice and to provide Northumbria Police and the Council with further information regarding the pop up beer garden.

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_