

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2012 (10.30 a.m.)

PRESENT: Mr P J Holbrook - Chairman

Mr J R B Cave

Mr A J Ward

The following were present at the meeting to make representations:-

Mr L Carvell (Corporate Manager – Licensing) to present Paper M65

Mr J Buckingham (Corporate Manager – Environmental Protection)

Ms J Hart (Senior Environmental Protection Officer)

Mr E Brown (Club Committee Chairman)

Mr J Parr (Club Committee member)

The following were in attendance at the meeting:-

Mr J Reed (Legal Services Manager) – Legal Adviser to the Sub-Committee

Mrs L Sheppard (Senior Democratic Services Officer) – Committee Clerk

Other Attendees – Members of the Club and public, including the following:-.

From Northcroft Social Club

Mrs S Dreyer – Vice Chairman

Mr D Dreyer – Treasurer

Mr E Cribb – Committee Member

Mr Taylor – Member

Mr M Theobald – Member

Other

Mr G Prall – Long Melford and District Ex-Servicemans Club

Mr M Davie – Gaming Machine Supplier

Cllr J M Owen

1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

2 LICENSING ACT 2003 – HEARING REPORT
APPLICATION (S71) NEW CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE NORTHCROFT
SOCIAL CLUB SUDBURY

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee referred to the procedure to be followed at the Hearing, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda, and introduced those present at the meeting.

The Licensing Officer submitted a report ([Paper M65](#)) to enable the Sub-Committee to determine an application for the grant of a new Club Premises Certificate. He also presented on behalf of Mr A Gilham and Mr R Mower, who were unable to attend, their letters of objection which were included in Appendix C(2) to the report.

Mr Buckingham made his representation (from the Responsible Authority – Environmental Health) attached as Appendix C(1) to Paper M65 and answered questions from Members.

Mr Brown then addressed the Sub-Committee, acknowledging the previous non-compliance in and by the management of the Club, emphasising his commitment as the newly appointed Chairman to meet the Club's obligations and outlining the experience he brought to the role. He confirmed his willingness to meet with neighbouring residents, particularly those who had complained about the Club's activities, and to talk to Environmental Health Officers about noise management and other measures. He also referred to the Club's contact with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) regarding revisions to Club rules.

The Chairman then asked if there were any questions for Mr Brown and as a result of a question from Mr Buckingham, Mr Parr was invited to explain the current position with respect to the FSA's views on the revised Rules. At this point, the meeting adjourned for five minutes during which time copies of the following documents, supplied by Mr Parr, were circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee and other relevant parties as public documents, with the consent of Mr Brown:-

- Letter from the FSA dated 9 July 2012 to the Northcroft Social Club Sudbury (Suffolk) Ltd and attachment, subsequently referred to as Appendix F to Paper M65.

Mr Brown and Mr Parr then responded to questions from Members, Mr Carvell, Mr Buckingham and the Legal Adviser. The Officers clarified various issues which arose during the course of the hearing, including the process for the adoption of revised Club rules and the extent to which various matters of concern could be addressed by the imposition of appropriate conditions. The parties were offered the opportunity to make any closing comments, following which they withdrew to allow Members to deliberate the matter. The parties were then invited back into the meeting and the Council's decision was notified as follows:-

In reaching its unanimous decision to adjourn the licensing hearing, in the public interest, to a specified date and to ask for further information to be available to the reconvened meeting, the Sub-Committee took into account the assurances given by Mr Brown regarding the future operation of the Club and his willingness to co-operate with officers to promote the licensing objectives, in particular the prevention of public nuisance. They also took into account the view of Mr Buckingham that noise management and other issues were not insurmountable but concluded that the application as submitted was deficient in certainty and detail and did not therefore allow Members to make a balanced determination. They also considered that none of the parties would be disadvantaged by an adjournment.

RESOLVED

That the hearing be adjourned and the application under Section 71 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a new Club Premises Certificate in respect of Northcroft Social Club be determined at a reconvened meeting of the Sub-Committee to be held at 10.30am on Thursday 4 October 2012. Further, that information be provided to the hearing by the applicant in relation to the following:-

1. **Updated club rules, constitution and arrangements for hirings / functions. Any further confirmation on club rules from the FSA should be provided.**
2. **Evidence (minutes) from the Club EGM / AGM concerning adoption of updated rules and associated club arrangements (including booking forms / vetting procedures / supervision for member functions and non-member functions or hirings).**
3. **Taking the opportunity to discuss and implement a noise control plan with the local Environmental Health Officer – carrying out any remedial works necessary or providing firm proposals / deadlines for completion of such works (including any structural soundproofing to reduce or prevent noise breakout to Croft Road in particular).**
4. **The local Environmental Health Officer should be afforded co-operation by the Club in relation to compliance checking the Club's noise management steps and drafting effective proposed conditions to prevent public nuisance. A statement from the Club relating to any updated steps to promote the licensing objectives in its operating schedule should be provided to the Sub-Committee at the reconvened hearing (for example specific noise management steps and collection of glasses).**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12.45 p.m.

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Chairman