

Minute

Orkney Local Licensing Forum

Wednesday, 17 April 2024, 11:00.

Committee Room 1, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

- Representative of Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licences:
 - Malcolm Stout.
- Representatives of Persons Resident within the Forum's Area:
 - Angela Chambers.
 - Barry Cockerham.
 - Andy McGinn.
 - Bob Mackenzie.
- Licensing Standards Officer:
 - Nick Long.
- Representative of the Chief Constable of Police Scotland:
 - Chief Inspector Scott Robertson (via Microsoft Teams).
- Representative of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:
 - David McGroarty, Group Commander.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance), Orkney Islands Council.

In Attendance

- Orkney Islands Council:
 - Karen Bevilacqua, Service Manager (Legal Services).
 - Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.

Observing

- Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board:
 - Kristopher D Leask.
 - Duncan A Tullock.

Apologies

- Representative of local Health Board:
 - Dr Louise Wilson.
- Representative of Persons having functions relating to Health, Education or Social Work:
 - Katie Spence.

Not Present

- Representatives of Persons Resident within the Forum's Area:
 - Kelly-Marie McGuigan.
 - Jean Tulloch.

Observing

- Charlotte Foy.

Chair

- Andy McGinn, Convener.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting

There had been previously circulated the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 24 January 2024, which was approved as a true record on the motion of Angela Chambers, seconded by Barry Cockerham.

2. Matters Arising

2.1. Membership of Forum – Young People

The Convener welcomed Charlotte Foy, who was observing this meeting, and would be appointed as a person representing young people.

2.2. Young People and Alcohol

The Convener advised that, after concerns raised at the last meeting regarding causes of, and potential solutions to, underage drinking in Orkney, he had arranged a workshop for members of the Licensing Forum where representatives from the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and Community Education had given a very informative presentation.

The Convener, together with the Licensing Standards Officer, had had a very productive meeting with the Head Teacher of Kirkwall Grammar School the previous day and this would be followed up with another meeting with a group of pupils in June. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

David McGroarty joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

The Legal Clerk, Orkney Islands Council, advised there was nothing significant to report to the Forum, as all work was currently business as usual.

4. Pubwatch

The Service Manager (Governance) advised that Senga Flett, the Chair of Pubwatch, was unable to attend the meeting.

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson advised that no further progress had been made since the previous meeting, but he reiterated his hope that Pubwatch would be back up and running, with involvement by the police, however it required to be run by the Committee.

Bob Mackenzie advised that Pubwatch was run by the BID in Inverness.

5. Orkney Street Pastors

Barry Cockerham gave a short update on the continuing work of the Orkney Street Pastors. He reported that he was in discussions with Police Scotland regarding having a mobile phone to keep in touch with the police, given that Pubwatch was currently inactive.

6. Licensing Standards Officer

There had been previously circulated a report on the work of the Licensing Standards Officer during the period 15 January to 31 March 2024.

In response to a query from the Convener regarding the number of applications for occasional licences, the Legal Clerk confirmed that this was significantly less than other areas.

7. Public Health

Although no one from NHS Orkney or public health was available, the Service Manager (Governance) had circulated an email the previous day containing various statistics. It was agreed to defer consideration to the next meeting.

8. Police Scotland

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson gave a short update on Police Scotland activity since the last meeting, in that 210 inspections of licenced premises had been carried out in the period from 21 January to 17 April 2024. Six incidents within licensed premises had been recorded, with two of those within supermarkets. All staff on premises had acted appropriately and Police Scotland had no concerns.

In response to a query from Angela Chambers, Chief Inspector Scott Robertson confirmed that all inspections were a walk through at busy periods and that licence holders did not know they would be arriving. The incidents were either attended to as a result of a phone call or found when out on patrol.

9. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

David McGroarty advised that Mick Marcus continued undertaking home fire safety visits and could do some low level interventions if drinking habits within a household was a cause for concern. As indicated at previous meetings, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was keen to help with getting Pubwatch back up and running.

10. Any Other Competent Business

The Convener expressed his thanks to the Legal Clerk for all her assistance over the years he had been involved with the Forum and wished her a happy retirement.

11. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 at 11:00.

Dates for the remainder of 2024 were noted as follows:

- Wednesday, 6 November 2024 at 14:00.
- Wednesday, 6 November 2024 at 15:30 – joint meeting with Orkney islands Area Licensing Board.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Convener declared the meeting concluded at 11:17.