

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

**Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum
held remotely on 23 June 2021 at 10.00am**

Present: P Zive (Chair), C Andrew, D Cuthill, J Lindsay, and R Russell

Apologies: A Stewart, S Paton, S Sangha, and Serg. I Farmer

Attending: E Maxwell, Administration Assistant - Licensing

**Attending for South
Ayrshire Council:** A Nelson, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services.

Opening Remarks

Due to technical difficulties experienced by the Chair, C Andrew took over as Chair for this meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting, took the sederunt and confirmed that today's meeting was permissible under the COVID-19 legislation. She also confirmed to Forum Members the procedures to be followed for the meeting.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received as detailed above.

3. Minutes of the previous Forum Meeting held on 12 February 2020

The Minutes of the Local Licensing Forum meeting held on the 12 February 2020 (issued) were submitted.

Decided: to approve the Minutes as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the previous Forum Minutes

C Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer agreed to discuss with the Chair of the Licensing Board, the format of future joint meetings between the Board and the Forum once restrictions eased, with a suggestion of a more informal workshop arrangement.

5. Minutes of previous Licensing Board meetings of:

The Minutes issued of the meetings of South Ayrshire Licensing Board which had taken place since the previous Forum meeting were submitted as detailed below:

2020

13 February 2020	(copy herewith)
12 March 2020	(copy herewith)
20 August 2020	(copy herewith)
19 November 2020	(copy herewith)

2021

14 January 2021	(copy herewith)
22 April 2021	(copy herewith)
20 May 2021	(copy herewith)

Decided: to note the Minutes of the Licensing Board meetings as detailed above.

6. Matters Arising from the previous Licensing Board Minutes

The Licensing Standards Officer highlighted the applications that would be of most interest to the Forum members.

7. Changes to the licensing trade due to Covid-19

There was no doubt that the last year had proved particularly challenging for the licensing trade. On-sales premises had only recently re-opened with some restrictions still in place whilst Off-sales had seen an increase in alcohol sales.

C Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer intimated that initially there had been confusion between Scottish and English guidance and that she had been working with colleagues within Environmental Health to pass on the correct information.

There had been a greater focus on outside hospitality and many licence holders had spent large sums of money in creating areas outside or adjacent to their premises for this purpose. Many of these were being covered by an occasional licence.

8. Occasional Licences

C Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer advised that there had been no applications for occasional licences for events or galas etc. over the past few months as Covid-19 restrictions prevented this type of activity.

9. Experiences from Forum Members

There followed an interesting discussion about the Covid-19 restrictions in place and the experiences of Forum Members during this time. There was no doubt that the pandemic had changed the dynamic of the business whether operating a café, restaurant, or bar. The licensed trade, and in particular their staff, were finding it increasing challenging as customers were being less tolerant about being reminded of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Members discussed the merits of eating and drinking outside and although pleasant to do so in the summer months may not be as attractive during the winter months.

Members also discussed the 10.30pm curfew with some Members favouring it; customers were coming in earlier; it was easier to determine how many staff would be required; and costs were easier to calculate. Members also discussed the inconsistencies in curfew hours across local authority areas.

Members discussed the increased number of house parties and the impact that this had on Police Scotland with people dispersed across a wider area as opposed to being centrally located within the social areas of towns.

10. Future Forum Meetings and Membership

The consensus of those attending intimated that a face-to-face meeting would be preferred whether held inside or outside. Discussion also arose regarding Forum membership and C Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer agreed to seek advice relating to increasing membership preferably in the young age group.

It was agreed that a further meeting of the Forum would be arranged in the future when restrictions had eased further.

The meeting finished at 11.32am