

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**

**Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum  
in County Buildings, Ayr on 12 February 2020 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:** P Zive (Chair), A Stewart, C Andrew, D Cuthill, M Ankers, and R Rennie.

**Attending for South**

**Ayrshire Council:** A Nelson, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services and Tegan Nisbett, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Licensing.

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all present.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of J Lindsay and S Sangha.

**3. Minutes of previous Forum meeting 6 November 2019**

The minutes of the South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum meeting held on 6 November 2019 (issued) were submitted.

**Decided:** to approve the minutes as a correct record; proposed by R Rennie and seconded by D Cuthill.

**4. Matters Arising from the South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum Minutes**

The Chair invited comment regarding the joint meeting with South Ayrshire Licensing Board and the Forum held on 6 November 2019. The Chair commenced by suggesting that there was little support from the Board for the Forum's suggestion that they had deviated from their Policy Statement by granting extended hours in the morning to a sports club.

Forum members raised concern about the lack of discussion around issues the Forum had raised. Whilst acknowledging that the accommodation of the meeting had been changed to try and establish a more relaxed approach, it did not appear to have achieved its aim on this occasion. Members discussed various options to encourage a more discussion focussed meeting. C Andrew suggested that a possible half day session with small discussion focussed workshops may resolve this and agreed to draft an email, to the Chair of the Board, providing feedback on the joint meeting and suggesting this alternative approach. C Andrew agreed to report back on this matter to a future meeting of the Forum.

R Rennie intimated that Forum members may be willing to meet with the Board, to discuss topics of interest, on more than one occasion per annum and suggested that the Board were not utilising the expertise within the Forum.

**Decided:** to request that C Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer write to the Chair of South Ayrshire Licensing Board suggesting an alternative format for the joint meeting.

5. **Minutes of previous South Ayrshire Licensing Board meetings:-**

**Minutes of 21 November 2019**

**Minutes of 16 January 2020 (draft)**

**Decided:** to note the Minute of the South Ayrshire Licensing Board meeting held on the 21 November 2019 and the draft Minute of the meeting held on the 16 January 2020.

6. **Matters Arising from the previous South Ayrshire Licensing Board Minutes**

**21 November 2019**

The Chair highlighted several issues that had arisen; that there would be future guidance relating to Extended Hours which reflected the discussions that the Forum had had during their meeting with the Board; that the Crosshill Arms had now surrendered their licence and that this resulted in no licensed venues in the village apart from the Bowling Club which was a Members Club; that the Depute Clerk had been given delegated powers to grant Extended Hours for Hogmanay in the absence of a Board meeting; that a new application for premises licence for the 3 Idiots Indian Restaurant in Ayr has been granted; that the Buf in Ayr had now applied for additional hours (from 12.30am until 2.30am) for a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday which meant that they were now able to open until 2.30am each day; that in the applications for Occasional Licence (section C) there were two applications (Annual Charity Ceilidh and Darts Exhibition) that were amended by the Board regarding the access of under 18s and that a significant number of premises had requested later hours on Christmas due to it falling on a Tuesday.

**16 January 2020**

The Chair intimated that the licence for the Unity Grill in Ayr had been surrendered due to the fact that an alcohol licence was no longer required to meet the aims of the business; also the licence for Ayr Town Lodge which is no longer in existence as it is being converted into alternative accommodation. A new application had been submitted for the Anchorage Hotel in Troon who had previously been operating on Occasional Licences. One personal licence had been refused and an application from Global Wine Distributors for the Buf in Ayr was not considered because it was received outwith the appropriate timescale. The Chair also advised Forum members that the Board had reviewed their Extended Hours application form and included a list of events considered to be of local or national significance. Whilst it was acknowledged that there was no definition of 'special' given in the Act, the Board would not give a definitive list of events it considered to be special as this may vary from premises to premises and would require to be assessed on a case by case basis, however it was noted that the following would not normally be considered as 'special' by the Board:-

- The appearance of a celebrity at the venue;
- The attendance of an artist (DJ/singer/band) who was coming late to the venue because of prior commitments; and

- The fact that there was an event in the area but the applicant premises was not part of that event.

Forum members discussed the above items at length including the merits a licensed premise had in reducing social isolation in rural areas; concern that the Depute Clerk had been given delegated powers to grant Extended Hours applications and the merits of reminding licenced premises that they required to submit their applications on time and general concern that a licensed premises wishes to be open until 2.30am each day. D Cuthill enquired about the new hand held devices that Police Scotland now had which reduced the need for a Police Officer to return to the station to prepare paperwork and wondered if the Ambulance Services had similar devices as it may help in providing more accurate statistical information about alcohol related incidents in the area. Forum members discussed their frustration at how information was collated and the lack of accurate statistical information available to the Board which would aid Board members in decision making.

Forum members welcomed the decision made by the Board on the revised Extended Hours application form and list of events that the Board considered to be of local or national significance and felt that this was a positive move for all concerned.

#### **7. Proposal to write to the SA Licensing Board regarding Extended Hours**

The Chair suggested writing to the Board expressing support for the Board's approach to Extended Hours. Forum members discussed this and unanimously

**Decided:** to request that C Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer write to the Chair of SA Licensing Board expressing the Forum's support for the Board's approach to Extended Hours.

#### **8. Any Other Competent Business**

There were no items of competent business.

#### **9. Date and Time of the next Forum Meeting**

The next meeting of the Forum would take place on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 10.00am in the Troon Committee Room, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am