

APPEALS PANEL (FINANCE).

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 29th March 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Ian Cavana (Chair), John Allan, Brian Connolly and Ann Galbraith
- Apologies: Councillors Sandra Goldie and John Hampton.
- Attending: K. Briggs, Legal and Licensing Manager; and J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Exclusion of Press and Public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded for the following item of business on the agenda, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the Appeals Panels of 28th February 2017 at 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. (issued) were submitted and approved.

4. Mandatory and Discretionary Relief Appeal :Charitable Organisations.

There were submitted (issued to members only) a summary of the case, correspondence and relevant papers regarding an application appealing against this Council's refusal of Mandatory and Discretionary Relief in respect of a Charitable Organisation.

The parties to the appeal were the appellants, their representative being D. Tudor and the Council's representative, S. Challis, Revenues Officer.

The Appeals Panel heard both parties fully on the appeal against the refusal of Mandatory and Discretionary Relief in respect of a Charitable Organisation, including a witness called by the appellants.

After questions from Members, both parties had the opportunity to sum up and then withdrew from the meeting.

Having heard and considered carefully all the documents and evidence presented, the Panel

Decided: unanimously, to uphold the appeal on the basis that the premises were occupied by a charity and were wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes; and to award mandatory and discretionary rates relief to a total of 100%.

Thereafter, both parties were re-admitted to the meeting and advised of the Panel's decision.

The hearing ended at 11.30 a.m.