

Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 28 February 2022	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

PRESENT

C Dickson; M Dymond; S McLean; J McSorley; P Pieraccini; D Reid; and I Robertson.

ALSO PRESENT

F McGrath-Moore, Police Scotland.

IN ATTENDANCE

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

RECORDING OF MEETING

Prior to the commencement of the meeting members were advised that this meeting of the Policy Board would be recorded and would be available to view on the Council's website.

APOLOGY

F Hewitt.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 ELECTION OF CONVENER

It was noted that in terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 a Forum, at its first meeting each calendar year, must elect one of its members to be Convener. M Dymond, seconded by P Pieraccini proposed that J McSorley be appointed as Convener. This was agreed unanimously. Mr McSorley assumed the chair at this point.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The Convener indicated his intention to take additional items of business which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Area Convener, being of the opinion that the items which were dealt with at items 8 and 9 respectively of the agenda were competent and relevant, authorised their consideration.

2a MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum held on 4 October 2021.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2b NOTE OF INQUORATE MEETING

There was submitted the note of the inquorate joint meeting between Renfrewshire Licensing Forum and Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 MATTERS ARISING

DECIDED: That it be noted that there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4 POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

Sergeant Robertson, Police Scotland, provided a verbal update on local licensing issues which had arisen since 29 November 2021, advising that Police Scotland had attended 75 incidents within licenced premises during the period, and had undertaken 178 pro-active inspections.

He advised that the incidents had resulted in a number of reports primarily coming from the premises themselves. He indicated that in the last six months there had been no requirement to bring any premises to the attention of the Licensing Board, and from a Police Scotland perspective, there appeared to be better management and stewardship of licenced premises in the Renfrewshire area.

He further advised that the Pub Watch scheme was in the process of being re-instated by licence holders.

Sergeant Robertson was then heard in answer to questions from Forum members on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 LICENSING STANDARD OFFICER UPDATE

C Dickson, Licensing Standards Officer (LSO), provided an update in relation to licensing activity undertaken since November 2021 and provided statistics on the numbers of premises as follows: -

On sales 92

On/off sales 187

Off sales 153

Total 432.

One premises had ceased trading during the period.

In addition, there were 12 provisional licences

The Licensing Standards officer advised that there were currently 1335 personal licenses which equated to an increase of 20 during the reporting period. He also provide can update on the status of Licence Premises fees since his last report

The Licensing Standards Officer was then heard in answer to questions from Forum members on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

6 ADP/LICENSING ISSUES

The Convener provided a verbal report on his role within the Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership, indicating that it was his intention to support the Forum in its activities, facilitate a review on how the forum is performing and looking for views on what improvements could be made. He indicated his intention to undertake discussions with the current members to ascertain their views on how the forum should move forward to enable the group to be a “critical friend” of the Licensing Board. Following these discussions a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

The Convener Indicated that a sub-group might be formed to undertake the review. S McLean volunteered for membership of the sub-group. It was also suggested that through the Police Scotland representatives, a representative from the Pub Watch group should be invited to join the sub-group.

DECIDED:

(a) That a sub-group be formed to facilitate a review on how the forum is performing and looking for views on improvements in the operation of the Forum;

(b) That representatives from Pub Watch be invited to join the sub-group; and

(c) That the report be otherwise noted.

7 ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for January 2022.

The newsletter provided statistics on the number of alcohol-related deaths in the UK, which was at its highest level since 2001; the introduction of minimum unit pricing

(MUP) in Ireland; the increase⁴ in drinking during lockdown; and AFS responses to a number of consultations.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

8 **LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS' COURSE**

The Licensing Standards Officer referred to the Licensing Standards Officers course, provided by Alcohol Focus Scotland which was undergoing a review, and it was anticipated that the course would be expanded from a three-day to a five-day course. He indicated that LSOs considered that the course in its current form was no longer fit for purpose.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

9 **ADDITIONAL GROUPS/PROJECTS**

D Reid referred to the number of groups funded through HSCP and involved in alcohol and drug related projects and suggested that these groups be invited on occasion to address the Forum on the work being undertaken in the community.

DECIDED: That groups funded through the HSCP involved in alcohol and drug related projects be invited to attend future meetings of the Forum to provide an update on the work being undertaken.

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

DECIDED: Members noted that the next meeting of Renfrewshire Licensing Forum was scheduled to be held at 2pm on 23 May 2022.