

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Monday, 22nd September 2008 at 9.30 am in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: V.A.Fletcher (Chairman), E.J.Greenaway (Vice-Chairman), G.J.L.Davies, J.A.Francis, Y.C.Hicks, T.Kiernan, A.A.Mackenzie, C.N.Mason, H.Rhodes, K.L.Tomlinson and A.G.P.Williams.

LC-9 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 21st July 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

LC-10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors R.G.Chaplin, T.J.Hope, G.P.Hossell and C.F.Smith.

LC-11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC-12 ELECTION DAY – WEEKEND VOTING

The Committee received the report of the Head of Audit & Democracy, which sought the Committee's response to the Government's consultation paper – "Election Day – Weekend Voting".

Members were advised that the Government was consulting on whether voting could be made more convenient by changing the timing of elections to the weekend. It was also consulting on whether there were other steps that should be taken alongside such a change to make it easier for people to cast their vote, for example the greater use of advance or early voting.

The Committee were informed that the consultation period closed on 26th September and they were referred to the Consultation Paper that had been distributed to them previously. Members were requested to proceed through the questions within the Consultation Paper after which as part of the report recommendation that the Democratic Services Manager would prepare the final response of the Council with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee based on the comments that the Committee would agree. As a guiding principle the Committee were of the overall view that the voting day should remain on the existing day – because of the potential extra costs, security and the view that there was no firm evidence that had concluded that there would be an increase in voter turnout.

Members did acknowledge that the Borough had a high level of continuing postal votes following the Borough Elections in 2003 that was an all postal vote election. The Committee were of the view that postal voting was very efficient and enabled voters to exercise advanced voting by this particular method. The Committee considered that further publicity surrounding postal

votes should be considered in an attempt to increase the number of postal votes accordingly.

Following a further discussion, it was;

RESOLVED – that

- (a) **Members were requested to consider their response to the Government's Consultation Paper on Weekend Voting, and;**
- (b) **Delegated authority be granted to Democratic Services Manager following consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee to prepare the Committee's response and to forward the same to the Government in accordance with the consultation timetable.**

LC-13 DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR LAND KNOWN AS THE FIELD OFF PEREGRINE WAY, APLEY, TELFORD TO BE REGISTERED AS A VILLAGE GREEN

The report of the Interim Head of Legal Services was received by the Committee which sought consideration of an application by the Apley Preservation Association to register a plot of land described as The Field, off Peregrine Way, Apley, Telford as a town or village green pursuant to Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006. The application had been received by the Council on 15th June 2007 and the Committee was referred to the copy of the completed application form at Appendix 1 that was attached to the report.

Members were requested to consider the independent report that had been undertaken by Douglas Edwards, the independent inspector appointed by the Council in its capacity as registration authority. The report had been prepared following the three day non-statutory public inquiry into the application that was held in April 2008.

Members were advised that the application was accompanied by evidence which the Applicants had contended proved use of the land in accordance with the requirements for registration. The evidence was considered by officers and in accordance with the relevant legislation consultation was undertaken with various parties and a notice was placed in the Shropshire Star. The landowner, English Partnerships had also been consulted and they had submitted an objection.

The Committee were requested to consider the evidence that had been submitted, the objection and the Inspectors report, taking particular account of the report and determine on the balance of probabilities whether the case had been proven for registration of the application site as a Village Green.

Members were referred to the report and the requirements that should be established prior to the determination as to whether a piece or parcel of land should be registered as a Village Green. It was also confirmed that all Members had visited the application site and had inspected all of the evidence that had been deposited in the Members Room, Civic Offices.

Following consideration of the evidence and a full discussion of the contents of the report and the associated evidence, it was;

RESOLVED – that the application for a plot of land described as The Field, off Peregrine Way, Apley, Telford for registration as a Town or Village Green pursuant to Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 be refused in accordance with the conclusions of the Inspectors report.

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm

Chairman:

Date: