

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Monday 20th October 2025

at 10:00 am

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Councillors Nelson, Thompson and Jorgeson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2025.
- 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2025.
- 3.3 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2025.
- 3.4 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2025.
- 3.5 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2025.
- 3.6 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2025.

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 4.1 No items.

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone.

The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

5. **ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**
6. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 7.1 Review of Personal Licence BD – *Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)*



LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

26 March 2025

The meeting commenced at 10.00am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Ben Clayton (In the Chair)

Councillor: John Nelson

Also Present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Martin Dunbar was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Matthew Dodds

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Garry Hutchison, Building Control Manager
Gemma Redfern, Solicitor
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Mark Morley and Sarah Slimings (Ha'Way Inn)
Sandy Gall, Phil Jukes and Matty Staithes (Cleveland Fire Brigade)

44. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Matthew Dodds.

45. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Ben Clayton declared an interest due to his position as vice-Chair of the Fire Authority.

46. Application for a new premises licence – Ha'Way Inn, The Grange, Waldon Street, Hartlepool *(Assistant Director (Regulatory Services))*

Members were asked to consider a new premises licence for the Ha'Way Inn for a number of activities including music (live and recorded) and on premises supply of alcohol 7 days a week 11am-11pm. A representation had been received from the fire brigade under the licensing objective of public safety.

Mr Morley advised members that this was a particularly complex application in light of the building being in a conservation area and locally listed. He had sent numerous emails to the planning and licensing departments giving details of the various assessments that required completion and noting that he would need a minimum 3 weeks to lodge the application. The current issue was around building control but he was confident the planning application would be successful. The client was using his own money to upgrade the premises. Following concerns from the Fire Brigade work had stopped on the premises but it would continue if today's application was successful. If it was not the owner would not continue leading to job losses. In terms of the representation from Cleveland Fire Brigade this was the result of an anonymous call to the fire brigade. Since then all work had stopped on the premises and work was ongoing to improve fire safety on the premises. It was expected that this would be validated in 2 weeks. It had been suggested that this meeting be cancelled but Mr Morley had been keen to engage in discussions with Fire representatives.

The Building Control Manager advised that standard practice was to not commence any building work until the relevant application had been received and checked by his department. Part of this included consultation with the Fire Brigade. In this case due to changes to the means of escape which had not been properly checked the building was currently not classed as being safe for use. The planning permission application should have been made 6 months ago however Mr Morley felt the building application and licence were intertwined and there was no point submitting one without the other. He estimated that final information on both could be supplied within 2 weeks.

Cleveland Fire Brigade Station Manager Matty Staithes detailed the reasons for their representation. A complaint had been received relating to the provision of a suitable means of escape from the premises. Upon attending the premises it had become clear that refurbishment works were taking place but building regulations approval processes had not been adhered to. The Council had subsequently confirmed that the works were unauthorised and required a regularisation application. The local Fire Authority are statutory consultees when any premises, that falls under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (when occupied), is altered to an extent that requires Building Regulations approval. This ensures that the Fire Authority is satisfied that the Functional Requirements of Approved Document B (Fire Safety), and the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are met by the proposed building works. As no application has been made for building control approval the Fire Authority were unable to provide any assurance that the premises meets these requirements. At the time of Building Controls site visit they had identified numerous contraventions from a Building Control perspective (including fire safety issues) and had advised that all works should cease until a regularisation application was made.

In order to resolve this a regularisation application must be submitted and Cleveland Fire Brigade consulted to agree that the proposed works meet

the requirements of Building Control (Part B – Fire Safety) & the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. Plans had been submitted following the anonymous complaint but these had not been representative of the building at the time. Mr Morley acknowledged the plan had been wrong but the owner did not have a current plan at the time of submission.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and their response to elected members questions. The Chair stated that the sub-committee would now go into closed session to consider their decision.

Decision

That consideration of this application be adjourned for 28 days to allow time for discussions between the applicant and Fire Authority. Members felt that they needed more information before making a decision to approve or refuse this application. They made particular reference to part M (public safety) of the application which they felt needed more information. The meeting to be reconvened on 23rd April 2025.

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 JUNE 2025

The meeting commenced at 11.00am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Martin Dunbar (In the Chair)

Councillors: Quewone Bailey-Fleet and Mike Young

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Claire McPartlin, Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer
Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 14 February 2025, 5 March 2025, 11 March 2025 and 13 March 2025

Minutes approved

4. Application for the review of a premises licence – Headland Local Shop, 31 Northgate, Hartlepool – (Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)

Members were advised that the appellant had requested an adjournment of this hearing for personal reasons. A revised date of 31st July at 10am was suggested and members were happy to approve this. It was noted that should any member be unable to attend on that date they should appoint a substitute.

Decision

That the meeting be adjourned and reconvened on Thursday 31st July at 10am

The meeting commenced at 10.00am on Thursday 31st July in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Martin Dunbar (In the Chair)

Also Present: in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Councillor John Nelson as substitute for Councillor Quewone Bailey-Fleet and Councillor Amanda Napper as substitute for Councillor Mike Young

Officers: Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health
Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Josh Maitland, Senior Trading Standards Officer
Gemma Redfern, Solicitor
Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

Also Present: Sivatheeson Sivasubramaniam – Headland Local Shop
Sureshkumar Kanapathipillai – Legal Representative for Headland Local Shop
PC Claire Lawton – Cleveland Police

5. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Quewone Bailey-Fleet and Mike Young

6. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

7. Application for the review of a premises licence: Headland Local Shop, 31 Northgate, Hartlepool (Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)

A copy of the log book showing refusals and incidents relating to the premises had been provided and was distributed to members prior to the start of the meeting.

Trading Standards had requested a review of this premises licence. This was on the grounds of the premises licence holder supplying illegal vapes, allowing underage sales and failure to comply with the CCTV condition attached to the premises licence. In December 2024 an underage sales

operation had resulted in the successful sale of cigarettes and cigarette papers to 2 underage volunteers. At the time the volunteers had been asked for identification but had been sold the items despite confirming they did not have identification. In December 2024 officers had entered the premises to obtain a copy of the CCTV showing this sale. At that time they had identified 270 illegal vapes on open display behind the counter which had been seized. At that time the member of staff present had been told that the CCTV footage of the illegal sale would need to be provided. However this had never happened despite numerous requests within the 31 day period after the sale (the length of time the footage is legally required to be retained for). It was also clear that the staff member had not been trained in how to obtain the CCTV.

The review was supported by Cleveland Police and Hartlepool Borough Council's Public Health Department. Both had provided statements of support.

Consideration of this application had been deferred from 23rd June at the request of the appellant. The Trading Standards and Licensing Manager informed Members that in the interim an application had been submitted to amend the name of the premises licence holder to Mr Sivatheeson Sivasubramaniyam. Mr Sangarapillai Nagenthiran had been removed from this post but remained as the Designated Premises Supervisor.

The Senior Trading Standards Officer advised members that at the time the vapes had been seized they had been illegal due to their nicotine content rather than due to their disposable nature (something which had been brought into law after December 2024). This had been the case for 9 years and a letter detailing this had previously been sent to the premises. He also noted that officers had attended the premises 3 times requesting a copy of the footage but nobody in attendance at any time had been able to supply it. It had also been unsuccessfully requested via email.

PC Lawton spoke in support of the review. Home office guidance is that using a premises for sale and storage of illegal alcohol, tobacco or vapes has links to drug dealing, money laundering and human trafficking. It also raised serious concerns around the owner's ability to uphold all 4 of the licensing objectives. This was a deliberate breach of the law and a prioritisation of profit over public safety. Cleveland Police were fully supportive of robust enforcement in this matter.

The Director of Public Health indicated his support for the review highlighting concerns around the rates of smoking in Hartlepool and the need to prevent people from ever starting.

Mr Kanapathipillai spoke on behalf of Mr Sivasubramaniyam. This was the first time any issues had ever been raised regarding these premises despite them being in the ownership of Mr Nagenthiran since 2017. In terms of the underage sales he accepted that a mistake had been but it had been

rectified and the staff involved no longer work at the Headland Local Shop. Mr Nagenthiran was 68-years-old and in poor health therefore it had been deemed that he was no longer able to manage the premises and he had been removed as premises licence holder. An application to remove him as Designated Premises Supervisor and replace him with Mr Sivasubramaniyam was pending. These events had taken place more than 6 months ago and in that time a Challenge 25 policy had been introduced and new staff had been employed and fully trained.

In terms of the CCTV the only issue had been the failure to provide the downloaded evidence. It had been available for police to view at the premises and had been supplied previously on over 100 occasions but at this time staff had been unaware of how to download it. Since then staff had been fully trained in how to do this.

In terms of the illegal vapes Mr Nagenthiran had not been aware that these were illegal products. If he had been they would not have been on public display. To conclude Mr Kanapathipillai noted that running a business was very challenging but Mr Nagenthiran had always been co-operative with the police and local authority. It was 6 months since these events had taken place and since then new staff had been employed and trained and Mr Sivasubramaniyam had taken over as premises licence holder meaning Mr Nagenthiran would have no involvement in the day to day running of the premises. Mr Sivasubramaniyam would be happy to fulfil any other conditions deemed necessary by the sub-committee as his family rely on the business. He was aware of the licensing objectives and would fulfil them all.

The Trading Standards and Licensing Officer highlighted that Mr Kanapathipillai had indicated that Mr Nagenthiran had been premises licence holder since 2017 whereas official documentation suggested this was 2019.

PC Lawton referred to Mr Kanapathipillai's assertion that CCTV footage had been supplied to officers over 100 times. Mr Kanapathipillai advised this was an estimate and had been footage from outside the premises to assist with police investigations. PC Lawton commented that this was not something that the premises licence holder could get into trouble for.

The Senior Trading Standards Officer noted that as part of the investigation the premises licence holder had given contradictory information as to where the vapes had been purchased. They had initially said they had purchased them from a supplier who had delivered them but not given their name and address despite being asked for this. Any delivery of goods should have documentary evidence and receipts attached to it. Mr Kanapathipillai confirmed that the premises holder at the time was responsible for these purchases and had been unable to provide information on the identity of the supplier. Mr Sivasubramaniyam was not aware of their identity. The

Trading Standards and Licensing Manager noted that Mr Nagenthiran was still the official Designated Premises Supervisor.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and their response to elected members questions. The Chair stated that the Sub Committee would then go into closed session to discuss their decision.

Decision

That the premises licence be revoked. This was a unanimous decision.

The Applicant, Trading Standards, sought a review of the Premise Licence of Headland Local Shop on the basis that the Licence Holder was selling illicit tobacco products, has made underage tobacco sales and has failed to comply with the conditions as attached to the Premise Licence.

The previously scheduled sub-committee meeting in this matter was adjourned on 23 June 2025 when the then Premise Licence Holder and Designated Licence Supervisor, Mr Sangarapilli Nagenthiran, sought an administrative adjournment. At the time the matter was returned to the sub-committee the Premise Licence holder in respect of the Headland Local Shop had been changed to Mr Sivatheesan Sivasubramaniyam and the Designated Supervisor remained as Mr Sangarapilli Nagenthiran.

Representations were heard regarding the ownership and management of the Local Headland Shop via a representative on behalf of Mr Sivatheesan Sivasubramaniyam .It was indicated that Mr Nagenthiran was the manager of the shop and that the new Premises Licence Holder was the legal owner of the same and that he had been the legal owner of the shop for the duration of the Premises Licence currently in place. Mr Sangarapilli intended to retire due to health issues and an application to change the Designated Supervisor would be forthcoming.

The committee accepts that the sale of illicit tobacco items presents a danger to the public and the underage sales of cigarettes is criminal and presents a danger to children. The previous Licence Holder and current Designated Supervisor had allowed the sale of illicit items and cigarettes to children. Further breaches of the Premise Licence conditions have been observed pertaining to the operation of CCTV systems within the premises. The present Licence Holder and legal owner of the Headland Shop had been the legal owner throughout the period of the Premise Licence, despite the change to the named Premises Licence Holder.

Unanimous decision to revoke the Premise Licence of The Headland Local Shop.

The Licence Holder has sold illicit tobacco products and cigarettes to children and has operated contrary to the Premise Licence conditions. Despite the

change in the named Premise Licence Holder, given the historical ownership of the business, the sub-committee has concerns over a systematic problem in management generally and could not be satisfied that a change of the named Premise Licence Holder would address the licence breaches to date. A short suspension of the Premises Licence would be insufficient to ensure that the Licensing Objectives were not undermined. A revocation of the licence was proportionate and necessary to uphold the licensing objectives. To allow the Licence Holder to retain the Premise Licence would undermine Licensing Objectives, namely

- the prevention of crime and disorder,
- Protection of children from Harm, and
- public safety.

The meeting concluded at 11:36am

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

5 August 2025

The meeting commenced at 10:00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Gary Allen (In the Chair)

Councillors: Tom Feeney

Also Present: Councillor Amanda Napper as substitute for Councillor Sue Little in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Officers: Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services
Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Zoe Craig, Environmental Health Manager
Abigail Reay, Advanced Public Health Practitioner
Gemma Redfern, Solicitor Litigation
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer
Claire Mcpartlin, Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

Also Present: PC Clare Lawton, Cleveland Police
Jonathan Tomlinson, Solicitor, Cleveland Police
Stuart Epsin, Applicant
Linda Baker, Business Partner of Applicant

8. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Sue Little.

9. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

10. Application for a new premises – Topsy Doorman, 56 Church Street, Hartlepool *(Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

Members were asked to consider an application for a new premises licence in respect of the Topsy Doorman, 56 Church Street, Hartlepool.

A Limited Liability Company had previously held a premises licence for the Topsy Doorman however the company had since dissolved. Under the Licensing Act 2003, licences held by any limited liability company that becomes insolvent or dissolved are immediately lapsed. An application could be received within 28 days of the company's dissolution to transfer the licence to a new entity however the licence holders failed to transfer the licence within the permitted timeframe therefore the premises licence had lapsed.

A new premises licence application had been received in February 2025 to the Licensing Sub Committee with representatives from the Licensing Authority, Cleveland Police and Environmental Health (Environmental Protection) in attendance. Concerns had been raised around the 4 am terminal hour within the application. Following due consideration Members granted the licence for a fixed term of six months. The licence was due to expire on 14 August 2025 therefore a new application was to be considered.

Representations had been received from Cleveland Police, Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority. The representations made reference to Licensing Objectives including;

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- Public Safety

The Advanced Public Health Practitioner provided a supporting letter with Licensing Objectives around the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety.

Hartlepool Borough Council's Licensing Policy which had been last updated in 2021 stated in non-residential areas applications for licences to allow the sale of alcohol or supply of late-night refreshments beyond 2 am would normally be refused subject to relevant representations being received.

The Applicant gave a detailed statement in support of the new premises application. It included the following:

- Security staff had been doubled in February 2025.
- One incident had taken place involving drug dealers, this was not linked to the Topsy Doorman. Security staff did not become involved until one male produced CS Gas. The CCTV Team had been informed and they had contacted the Police.
- The Topsy Doorman always aided and worked closely with emergency services.

- Reference was made to a point raised within the Committee in February 2025 that the door supervisors for the Topsy Doorman regularly provided assistance should there be accidents and emergencies in the general area. They have first aid qualifications, access to a trauma first aid pack and often wear body CCTV. They also have handheld metal detectors onsite. Closing the premises at 2 am would take this provision away from the area as a whole and remove a safe haven from people wanting to get away from external conflict.
- The 2 am closure requirement would create financial difficulties for the business.

In response to questions received from Committee Members, the Applicant provided the below clarification:

- Topsy Doorman staff had become reliant on the CCTV radio to report incidents, the Applicant had raised this issue and discussed with Police.
- The only bars / clubs currently open on Church Street between 2 am and 4 am are the Topsy Doorman, Club H and the Hillcarter.
- The Applicant advised as the Licensee and Head of Door Staff it could be a hard balance in particular when dealing with conflict. However the aim is the same, to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for staff and customers. The Applicant had a personal relationship with some members of the door staff however had previously dismissed and suspended staff in the past when required.

The Licensing and Trading Standards Manager indicated that this hearing was about the four licensing objectives. Hartlepool Borough Council's Licensing Policy advises longer opening hours would not be a benefit to Hartlepool. The 2 am closure had been incorporated into the policy in 2011; any premises granted a licence prior to this may have had a 4 am licence granted. Since that time the policy had been reviewed every five years and the closure hour of 2 am had been deemed appropriate. The policy is due for consultation and a new Policy will be adopted 1st January 2026.

The Licensing and Trading Standards Manager provided details regarding venues in Church Street, Hartlepool with a 4 am licence;

- Hillcarter, 4 am licence issued in 2005
- Club H, 4 am licence issued in 2005

The Environmental Health Manager (Environmental Protection) expressed to not object to the licence, but to the 4 am closure and would strongly recommend closing no later than 2 am. The 4 am licence had been granted at the last Committee for a six-month period; however, a number of

conditions had been proposed including the installation of a noise limiter. No confirmation had been received that the conditions had been met. No noise complaints had been received in the last six months however this does not provide a reliable indicator. Premises could maintain limitations for noise over a short period. The 4 am closure would not be granted under the new policy. It is important to apply opening hours consistently and appropriately to everyone. To grant this 4 am licence would set a precedent to other businesses. The Environmental Health Manager (Environmental Protection) recommended the closure time at 2 am in wider interest to community wellbeing.

The Applicant advised that the noise limiter had been put in place by an external company. The Environmental Health Manager (Environmental Protection) noted the noise limiter had been put into place however advised this needed to be set by the Local Authority.

The Advanced Public Health Practitioner provided a letter of support and advised Hartlepool are in the top 10 in the United Kingdom for increased hospital admission for injury or assault as a result of alcohol usage. Three out of four people are not accessing support for alcohol related issues. Public Health would support alcohol sales up until 2 am.

CCTV footage had been supplied and was presented to the Committee. PC Lawton provided a description of the events within the footage. The footage showed two separate incidents of violence outside the Topsy Doorman.

In addition to all of the information provided by Cleveland Police, the Police Solicitor elaborated on the reasons they had objected to the new licence. In the Church Street area there are a number of pubs, clubs and late-night venues, if sales of alcohol were allowed up until 4 am this would lead to a rise in alcohol related disorder. A list of incidents at the Topsy Doorman had been provided. 71.4% of calls to Police in this area are related to violence, although not all are linked to the Topsy Doorman, this area showed a repeat of offences including drunkenness and aggressive behaviour.

PC Lawton advised the Police had worked with the Local Authority and introduced several initiatives including free APEX Radios, strengthening of the Church Street Forum and Church Street Pub Watch. PC Lawton was not aware of any venues which had incidents as frequently as the Topsy Doorman. Reviewing CCTV footage showed revelers outside of the venue frequently.

The Applicant further explained the incidents which had been shown on the CCTV footage which he advised had resulted in one member of door staff being dismissed and another being suspended.

A Member asked if any further training would be available for door staff to undertake. The Applicant advised training around restraint could be sought which was used by the Police and Prison Service. Conflict Management

Training could also be available for staff to obtain a Level 2 and Level 3 qualification.

Decision

The Applicant (Stuart John Mark Espin of The Tipsy Doorman) previously benefitted from a Premise Licence which was held by a Limited Liability Company, which lapsed when the Limited Liability Company was dissolved prior to February 2025. No application to transfer the Premise Licence to a new entity was made within the 28 date period as set out in the Licensing Act 2003 and accordingly a fresh application for new Premise Licence was required.

The Applicant, in making a fresh Premise Licence Application, sought to replicate the timings for Licensable Hours of 10am-4am for Licensable Activities, as had been permitted under the previous Premise Licence. The Application included a revised Operating Schedule.

A new Premise Licence Application was brought before the Licensing Sub Committee on 14 February 2025. The Application had been advertised in the prescribed manner and three representations had been received from Cleveland Police, Public Protection, Environmental Health (Environmental Protection) and the Licencing Authority expressing concerns over the terminal hour of 4am within the application. Additional licence conditions had been agreed in advance of the Sub Committee Meeting.

The representations received had not objected to the granting of the Premise Licence in principle, but instead sought the Licensable Hours of 10am-4am for Licensable Activities be limited to 10am-2am in line with the Licencing Policy and in order to further the Licencing Objective.

The Premise Licence was granted to the Applicant with the following modifications to the Operating Schedule, as was felt proportionate and necessary to the promotion the Licencing Objectives as set out in the Hartlepool Borough Council Licensing Policy 2021.

Having considered the strong submissions of Cleveland Police it was acknowledged that these premises had been blighted by a number of incidents of crime and disorder, both in and outside of the premises. Such are the issues in this location that Cleveland Police have put in place a Public Space Protection Order to enable them to deal with incidents that have been occurring. Upon consideration of the evidence put forward by the Applicant the sub committee remained gravely concerned that incidents would continue to arise in and around these premises. It was emphasised that it was imperative that the Applicant worked closely with both the Local Authority and Cleveland Police to address these concerns. The Sub Committee, upon hearing the Premise Licence Application on 25 February 2025 felt it necessary to further the licensing objectives, that there be an enhanced period of monitoring to encourage compliance and reassure the public. The Operating Schedule was therefore modified to grant the Premise Licence, on

the condition that it was for a fixed period of 6 months by virtue of sections 17(4)(d), 18(3)(b), 18(4)(a)(i) and 18(5) and s26 of the Licensing Act 2003. The same enabling the effects of the Premise Licence to be monitored in advance of a fresh Premise Licence Application, with any further representations to be made with regards to the period in which the Premise is in effect, whereby Licence Reviews can be sought in the ordinary manner should the same become necessary. The same was considered to be a proportionate response to the Application rather than an outright rejection.

The new Premise Licence Application in July 2025, again sought to carry out Licensable Activities between the hours of 10am-4am. Again representations were received from the relevant authorities, namely from Cleveland Police, the Licensing Authority and Public Protection, Environmental Health. They had not objected to the granting of the Premise Licence in principle, but instead sought the Licensable Hours of 10am-4am for Licensable Activities be limited to 10am-2am in line with the Licensing Policy and in order to further the Licensing Objectives. Additional Licence Conditions were agreed with the Applicant and relevant authorities in advance of the meeting.

In consideration of the fresh application for a premise licence (to take effect shortly prior to the lapse of the Premise Licence granted for a fixed duration), the Sub Committee heard evidence regarding further incidents in or around the Premises which had taken place during the period of the fixed term Premise Licence and historically. Evidence was also heard in respect of changes made by the Applicant in order to better address on-going and historical issues.

The Sub Committee carefully considered all evidence heard and Licensing Policy of Hartlepool Borough Council. It was felt that in order to uphold and promote the Licensing Objectives namely; the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and to prevent public nuisance, it was necessary and proportionate to grant the licence but restrict the Licensable hours for Licensable Activities to between the hours of 10am-2am. The Licensing Policy of Hartlepool Borough Council is clear on Licensable hours for Licensable Activities and the incidents in or around the Premise were on-going, despite the enhanced period of supervision during the fixed term Premise Licence period.

The Premise Licence is granted unanimously with an amended operating schedule to reflect the licensing hours of 10am-2am, restricting all licensable activities to between the hours of 10am -2am. The agreed licensing conditions are to be included within the Premise Licence.

The meeting concluded at 12:05 pm.

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

18th August 2025

The meeting commenced at 10:00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: John Nelson (In the Chair)

Councillor: Not present

Also Present: Councillor Martin Dunbar as substitute for Councillor Carole Thompson in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Councillor Tom Feeney as substitute for Vacancy in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Gemma Redfern, Solicitor Litigation
Claire Mcpartlin, Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

Also Present: PC Clare Lawton (Cleveland Police)
Janet Sturrock (The Applicant)

11. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Carole Thompson.

12. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

13. Application for a new premises licence – High Throston Golf Course, Worset Lane, Hartlepool (Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)

Members were asked to consider an application for a new premises licence in respect of Throston Golf Club, Worset Lane, Hartlepool. The Applicant had been seeking a licence for supply of alcohol on the premises Monday – Sunday 11:00 until 22:00 and opening hours of Monday – Sunday 11:00 – 22:30.

A number of public representations had been received and they were attached at Appendix 4, 5, 6 and 7. The representations made reference to the following licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety

The Applicant had agreed conditions for the Premises Licence with Cleveland Police and they were attached at Appendix 8.

The Applicant's Solicitor made reference to the previous manager of the golf club who had been the main objector of the application and provided background history of the arrangements that had previously been in place around the management of the site.

Several allegations had been made against the Applicant as part of the objections including the employment of known criminals and excessive noise. The Applicant was able to provide proof of employment for all current employees.

The Trading Standards and Licensing Manager had contacted the Local Authority's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit prior to the meeting who advised there had been no reported incidents of excessive noise in that area.

Prior to the meeting, PC Clare Lawton had attended the golf club and met with the Applicant to discuss the new premises licence application. PC Lawton reported that the bar area of the golf club had been calm and gentle. The bar area is small with alcoholic refreshments being available only by cans and bottles. No complaints of noise had been received regarding the premises.

Decision

The Applicant, Janet Sturrock, along with her legal representative appeared on behalf of High Throston Golf Course, Worset Lane, Hartlepool, in respect of the application for a new Premise Licence.

In advance of the hearing, conditions for the Premise Licence were agreed with Cleveland Police.

Representations were received from 4 local residents the same made a number of allegations surrounding criminal activity, nuisance and connections to the same and citing 3 of Licensing Objectives as reasons for objections, namely:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety

The Relevant Authorities had no objections to the Premise Licence.

The subcommittee heard representations regarding the allegations as set out in the objections from the Applicant, which included a complicated back history connecting the main objector to the Premise itself (former manager and husband of the previous Premise Licence Holder) and connected legal disputes with the Applicant. The objectors did not attend the subcommittee meeting.

Cleveland Police and the Local Authority indicated that no reports of such incidents as set out in the objections could be corroborated as no reports had been made in respect of the same.

After careful consideration, the subcommittee found that the allegations as set out in the objections were unsubstantiated.

Unanimous decision to grant the Premise Licence with conditions as agreed with the Relevant Authorities and the Applicant. The agreed Licence conditions are sufficient to ensure that the Licensing Objectives are not undermined.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 am.

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

19 August 2025

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Matthew Dodds (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ben Clayton and Amanda Napper

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Gemma Redfern, Solicitor Litigation
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

15. Apologies for Absence

None.

16. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

17. Application for a New Premises Licence – 77 Church Street *(Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

Members were informed that the applicant was unable to attend this meeting and had requested the meeting be adjourned and reconvened at a later date.

Decision

Members' agreed to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on 11 September 2025 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.20am

The meeting commenced at 2:10 pm on Thursday 11th September in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Matthew Dodds (In the Chair)

Councillors: Amanda Napper and Ben Clayton

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Gemma Redfern, Solicitor Litigation
Claire McPartlin, Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

Also present: Sureshkumar Kanapathipillai – Legal Representative for 77 Church Street
Quinton Benette – Applicant, 77 Church Street

18. Apologies for Absence

None.

19. Declarations of Interest by Members

None.

20. Application for the review of a premises licence – 77 Church Street, Hartlepool *(Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

Members were asked to consider an application for a new premises licence in respect of 77 Church Street, Hartlepool. The Applicant had initially been seeking a licence for supply of alcohol on the premises Monday – Sunday 08:00 am until 11:00 pm and late-night refreshment Monday – Sunday 11:00 pm until 01:00 am.

A representation had been received from 14 local businesses which was attached at Appendix 4. The representations made reference to the following licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety

The Applicant had agreed conditions for the Premises Licence with Cleveland Police and they were attached at Appendix 5.

In response to a question raised by a Member, the Applicants Legal Representative advised late night refreshments had been withdrawn from the application. The Premises Licence and opening times would therefore operate simultaneously Monday – Sunday 08:00 am until 11:00 pm.

Following a question from a Member, the Applicants Legal Representative advised a delivery service would be available from the store via third-party services. The Solicitor Litigation assured Members the sales of alcohol via a third-party APP requires proof of ID.

The Trading Standards and Licensing Manager read a statement received from the objectors to the Committee. The statement raised several concerns including the potential increase in Anti-Social Behaviour with an additional venue which supplied alcohol on Church Street with limited Police resources.

A Member questioned whether any procedures had been put in place to protect members of the public and staff within the store regarding the sale of alcohol. The Applicants Legal Representative advised the store would not sell single cans of alcohol or high strength beer. In terms of security, this had not been looked into due to the financial implications however, the Legal Representative advised if this was felt necessary by Police it would be considered.

The Applicants Legal Representative addressed the Committee to advise the objection received referred to the initial operating schedule which had been amended. There was reference to the potential increase in Anti-Social Behaviour which the Legal Representative felt was unreasonable and unfair. It was expressed that the new hours on the application (Monday – Sunday 08:00 am until 11:00 pm) would be generally expected of a convenience store and are proportionate.

Decision

The Applicant, Quinton George Benette, along with his legal representative appeared on behalf of 77 Church Street, Hartlepool, in respect of the application for a new Premise Licence. The original application sought including an operating hours of 6am - 1am Monday to Sunday and included sales of late-night refreshments.

In advance of the hearing, conditions for the Premise Licence were agreed with Cleveland Police, who had not attended due to withdrawing any previously held objections in light of the additional agreed conditions.

The Applicant indicated that the licence application had been amended and no longer included sales of late-night refreshments and the operating schedule had been amended to include operating hours and opening hours of 8am-11pm Monday to Sunday.

Representations were received via correspondence signed by 14 local businesses, the same raised a number of concerns around late night off licence-sales and stating that the same should be refused or

strictly curtailed, citing concerns over anti-social behaviour and indicating that their main concerns surrounded public safety. The objections related to 3 of the Licensing Objectives, namely:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety

The Relevant Authorities had no objections to the Premise Licence.

Unanimous decision to grant the Premise Licence with conditions as agreed with the Relevant Authorities and the Applicant.

The subcommittee carefully considered the representations made by the objectors, received both via letter and email (and read in their absence). The sub-committee concluded that the new operating schedule and additional licencing conditions as agreed upon with the Applicant and Cleveland Police were sufficient to ensure that the Licensing Objectives were not undermined.

The meeting concluded at 2:45 pm.

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

20th August 2025

The meeting commenced at 2:00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Officers: Claire Mcpartlin, Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

21. Meeting Abandoned

Following the withdrawal of the application, the meeting was abandoned. The Chair and his colleagues had been advised of the situation prior to the meeting.

CHAIR