

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2016 AT 10:00AM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Grice, Mrs. D. (Chairman)
Johnson, T.B. (Vice-Chairman)

Grocott, M.R. Sutherland, M.
Lea, C.I. Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Snape, P.A. Witton, P.T.

21. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Hardman.

22. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

23. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February, 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed.

24. Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Consultation on the Review of Animal Establishment Licensing in England

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 4.1 – 4.22 of the Official Minutes of the Council) (*presented by the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager*).

The Committee considered each of the consultation questions in turn and agreed the responses as shown in the below table:

Question	Committee Response
Q1 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce a single Animal Establishment Licence?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.
Q2 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to promote or require use of the Model Conditions by local authorities, for activities where they have been agreed?	Unanimous agreement with the proposal as the Council is already working to the Model Conditions.
Q3 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to prohibit the sale of puppies below the age of eight weeks?	Majority agreement with this proposal.
Q4 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to make clear that the statutory licensing threshold for dog breeders is set at three or more litters per year?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.
Q5 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to legally require pet sales to provide written information when selling animals?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.
Q6 – What other proportionate measures could address concerns around the care of exotic animals?	Detailed written information should be provided on how the animal should best be cared for (e.g. how and what it should be fed, ideal living conditions, likely adult size of animal etc.).
Q7 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to allow licences to be issued for a fixed term, set at any point during the year?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.
Q8 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase the maximum length of a licence that local authorities may issue to up to three years?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal, but safeguards should be built in to the licence to ensure that the welfare of the animal is monitored on a regular basis.
Q9 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to allow licence holders to transfer licences to new owners of the same premises, subject to notification of and approval by the local authority?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.
Q10 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to require licence holders to notify local authorities of major changes, such as a change of premises or scale of activities?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.

Q11 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to maintain the registration requirement for performing animals?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal, but note that such matters are the responsibility of the County Council
Q12 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to the registration system for performing animals?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal, but note that such matters are the responsibility of the County Council
Q13 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with these proposals on powers of entry?	Unanimous agreement with these proposals.
Q14 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to allow an exemption from licensing requirements for businesses affiliated to a body accredited by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS)?	Unanimous agreement with this proposal.
Q15 – Do you think sector-led UKAS-accredited certification schemes could improve animal welfare in unlicensed areas?	Majority agreement with this proposal, although no specific comments made.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the DEFRA consultation be noted.
- (B) Through Officers of the Licensing Unit, the responses listed in the table above be submitted as the Licensing & Public Protection Committee's response to the consultation questions.

25. Licence Conditions for the Home Boarding of Dogs

Prior to the commencement of this item, Councillor Todd advised that she knew the owners of one of the Home Boarding establishments who had been invited to the meeting for this item. As such, she declared a personal and pecuniary interest in this matter and left the room for the remainder of the meeting.

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 5.1 – 5.23 of the Official Minutes of the Council) (*presented by the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager*).

Members were advised that those persons who were currently licenced to home board dogs had been invited to the meeting to put forward their views on the proposed conditions.

A discussion was then held between the Committee and the licence holders regarding those conditions which the licence holders were particularly in disagreement with and sought clarification on a number of matters.

During the consideration of this item, Councillors Sutherland and Witton left the meeting and did not return.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The proposed licence conditions for the home boarding of dogs as detailed in Annex 1 of the report be approved, subject to necessary wording amendments being made as agreed.
- (B) A meeting of the Licensing & Public Protection Committee be held in late April 2016 to receive and consider the licence conditions which include the requested amendments referred to in decision (A).
- (C) It be noted the final version of the licence conditions will be presented to Council on 6 July, 2016 for approval.
- (D) It be noted that the intention will be to impose the finalised conditions upon licences granted on or after 1 January, 2017.

The meeting closed at 12:05pm

CHAIRMAN