

**GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**10 MARCH 2015**

**PRESENT** – Councillor Nutt (in the Chair); Councillors C.L.B. Hughes, Lawton, Lee (the Mayor), Newall, Stenson, J. Vasey and L. Vasey (Vice-Chair). (8)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors L. Haszeldine, B. Jones, D. Jones and Thistlethwaite. (4)

**OFFICERS** – Julie Richings, Principal Licensing Officer; Helen Sefton, Licensing Enforcement Officer; Amy Wennington, Lawyer; David Burrell, Private Sector Housing Manager; Sergeant C. Dickenson and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

**L37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**L38. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 February, 2015.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**L39. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS – BACKHOUSE HALL, BULL WYND (THE REGISTER OFFICE)** – The Assistant Chief Executive and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District submitted a report (previously circulated) to consider an application received from the Superintendent Registrar, Darlington Borough Council for a renewal of its licence to be approved as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994), the Civil Partnership Act (2004); the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005; and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

A copy of the application was appended to the submitted report and the application to renew the licence has no change to the designation of areas or levels for occupancy and no objections have been received following the usual officer consultations.

**RESOLVED** – That the application for renewal be granted for Backhouse Hall, Bull Wynd, Darlington as an approved venue for the solemnisation of Marriages and Civil Partnerships in respect of the venue subject to the standard licence conditions and that the maximum number of persons permitted to occupy ceremony rooms on the occasion of Civil Marriages or Civil Partnerships should be as outlined in accordance with the Fire Officer's recommendations.

**L40. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS – HOTEL BANNATYNE, SOUTHEND AVENUE** – The Assistant Chief Executive and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District submitted a report (previously circulated) to consider an application received from the Hotel Bannatyne, Southend Avenue, Darlington for a renewal of its licence to be approved as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994), the Civil Partnership Act (2004); the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005; and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

A copy of the application was appended to the submitted report and the application to renew the licence has no change to the designation of areas or levels for occupancy and no objections have been received following the usual officer consultations.

**RESOLVED** – That the application for renewal be granted for Hotel Bannatyne, Southend Avenue, Darlington as an approved venue for the solemnisation of Marriages and Civil Partnerships in respect of the venue subject to the standard licence conditions and that the maximum number of persons permitted to occupy ceremony rooms on the occasion of Civil Marriages or Civil Partnerships should be as outlined in accordance with the Fire Officer’s recommendations.

**L41. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS – CENTRAL HALL, DOLPHIN CENTRE** - The Assistant Chief Executive and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District submitted a report (previously circulated) to consider an application received from the Dolphin Centre, Horsemarket, Darlington for a renewal of its licence to be approved as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994), the Civil Partnership Act (2004); the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005; and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

A copy of the application was appended to the submitted report and the application to renew the licence has no change to the designation of areas or levels for occupancy and no objections have been received following the usual officer consultations.

**RESOLVED** – That the application for renewal be granted for Central Hall, The Dolphin Centre, Darlington as an approved venue for the solemnisation of Marriages and Civil Partnerships in respect of the venue subject to the standard licence conditions and that the maximum number of persons permitted to occupy ceremony rooms on the occasion of Civil Marriages or Civil Partnerships should be as outlined in accordance with the Fire Officer’s recommendations.

**L42. APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF LICENCES FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS** – The Assistant Chief Executive and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the varying of the current licences for Redworth Hall Hotel, Blackwell Grange Hotel, Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel, South Park Bandstand and Hotel Bannatyne.

The listed venues had requested that their licences as approved venues for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnership be varied to include Redworth Hall Hotel – The Summerhouse; Blackwell Grange Hotel – The Bandstand; Hall Garth Hotel – The Secret Garden Gazebo house; South Park – The Bandstand; and Hotel Bannatyne – The Gazebo in their list of locations within their venue as a place for the Civil Marriage or Civil Partnership to take place.

The applications have been subject to the usual officer consultations and the only comment returned was regarding access for wheelchair and disabled guests.

The premises are considered to be suitable for approval as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships and in terms of capacities of these venues the venue itself will only be the location for Registrar to attend with the Marriage Register with the couple and guests being outside of it in the outside space and therefore a limitless number of guests for each venue.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be granted for the following venues to have their licences as approved venues for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnership varied to include the following in their list of locations within their venue as a place for the Civil Marriage or Civil Partnership to take place.

- (a) Redworth Hall Hotel – The Summerhouse;
- (b) Blackwell Grange Hotel – The Bandstand;
- (c) Hall Garth Hotel – The Secret Garden Gazebo House;
- (d) South Park – The Bandstand; and
- (e) Hotel Bannatyne – The Gazebo.

**L43. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC – RESOLVED** – That, pursuant to Sections 100A (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**L44. HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATIONS** – The Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) inviting Members to consider an application for the renewal of a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence in light of the disclosure of a recent medical condition and to consider an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence in light of convictions and cautions.

**(1) Ref. No. 02/15** – An application for renewal of a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence in respect of the disclosure of a recent medical condition and the fact that he failed to report the medical condition to the DVLA or the Licensing Office.

The driver attended the meeting and responded to Members questions in relation to the above, and to why he felt that he was a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence.

In reaching their decision, Members took into consideration the drivers medical condition and also the driver's record, driving experience, sobriety, mental and physical fitness, honesty and ensuring that they would not take advantage of their employment to abuse or assault passengers.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the application for renewal of a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence be granted with a final warning letter in respect of future conduct and warned that if any further convictions, cautions, warnings or reprimands are received they would be referred immediately to the Licensing Committee.

(b) That the grant be subject to receipt of a medical certificate to clarify that the driver is medically fit to drive a hackney carriage vehicle and which meets the requirements of the DVLA Group II Medical.

(c) That any further licence renewal applications, will be subject to the provision of an annual medical confirmation from consultant/specialist opinion that satisfactory control of symptoms has been attained with ongoing compliance with treatment.

**(2) Ref. No. 03/15** – An application for grant of a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence in respect of offences for criminal damage, indecent assault, theft, going equipped for theft, conspire/obtain property by deception, no road fund licence, excess speed, failure to produce a driving licence and speeding.

The driver failed to attend the meeting and had requested a deferral as he had been working away and had not had the opportunity to seek legal advice.

**RESOLVED** – That the application be deferred and considered at the next meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 7 April 2015 and the driver be advised that if he does not attend on that occasion that the matter will be dealt with in his absence.