

LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

15 April 2019



Minutes of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held at the Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Monday 15 April 2019 at 6:34pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors C.J. Saint (Chairman), Mrs J.M. Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Lord Ampthill, R.K. Bird, G.S. Browne, K.M. Field and M. Mooney.

Advisory officers present: Executive Director (MJ), Assistant Director Resources, Deputy Legal Services Manager - Wealden & Rother Shared Legal Services (in part), Human Resources Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

Also present: 1 member of the press.

LG18/10. MINUTES

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 22 October 2018 as a correct record of the proceedings.

LG18/11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.K. Azad, Mrs D.C. Earl-Williams, S.D. Elford and Mrs S. Hart.

PART I – RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

LG18/12. SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY ANNUAL UPDATE
(5.2)

Members received the report of the Executive Director providing an update on surveillance activity over the previous year, in line with the inspecting officer's recommendations.

There had been no use of legally approved surveillance powers in 2018, although overt activity had been undertaken; the last time the Council had applied for and were granted surveillance powers by a Magistrate was in 2015.

The landscape of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act was changing and the use of social media surveillance by local authorities would therefore need to be considered. Training for relevant staff was planned and this would be reported on in the next annual surveillance activity update.

RECOMMENDED: That the Council's annual report on covert surveillance be noted;

AND

RESOLVED: That the 2018 Annual update report be noted.

PART II – DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

LG18/13. STAFFING DIGEST – APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019 (5.1)

Members considered the Staffing Digest report of the Executive Director covering the period April 2018 to March 2019 which gave an update in the field of staff management. The following key points were noted:

- Recruitment remained active; turnover was 7.49% for the first six months of the year and 4.56% for the latter part of the year. The high turnover over the first half of the year was due to six retirements.
- Issues around professional post recruitment had been raised and remained a concern. The Council was committed to providing relevant training opportunities to existing employees in order to recruit to key posts.
- The Council had successfully recruited six apprentices into various roles and service areas around the authority. The apprenticeships were for a fixed term, but individuals were encouraged to apply for suitable vacancies at the end of the period; one apprentice had recently been successfully employed.
- A well-being programme had been created, commencing with a number of well-being workshops, lunchtime drop-in sessions and NHS health checks in the past year.
- In 2018 this Committee had recommended a two year pay settlement, which was subsequently approved at Cabinet and full Council. It was confirmed that the approved budget for 2019/20 incorporated the agreed pay rise and Members were pleased to note that the second year of the settlement would take effect from 1 September 2019.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

LG18/14. INQUORATE PARISH COUNCIL, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (5.3) SECTION 91 – RYE FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

At the close of nominations for the Parish Council elections scheduled for the 2 May 2019, Rye Foreign Parish Council was inquorate having received only two nominations, the full Parish Council being made up of five Members and therefore requiring a quorum of three. Whilst this state of affairs was the responsibility of the Parish Council, the possibility of there being inquorate Councils had been envisaged by the legislature, which had made statutory provision to cover such eventualities. This provision entitled the District Council to appoint, on a temporary basis, a sufficient number of Parish Councillors to enable the work of the Parish Council to continue until elections could be held. The Licensing and General Purposes Committee had the power to make temporary appointments to Parish Councils in this eventuality.

It was recommended that the Committee gave delegated authority to the Executive Director to make the necessary Order under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972, appointing sufficient Members to constitute a quorum for the Rye Foreign Parish Council following the elections on 2 May 2019. The person appointed would only act so long as necessary until an election could be held, likely to be sometime in June 2019.

It was suggested that the Committee agreed to one person being appointed to ensure the Parish Council was quorate, and the existing East Sussex County Councillor representing the Rye Foreign and Northern Rother Division, Angharad Davies, was nominated.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director be granted delegated authority to make the Order as set out in the annex to the report on Saturday 4 May 2019, to appoint one Parish Councillor to Rye Foreign Parish Council to ensure the Council is quorate; the appointee to be the East Sussex County Councillor for the Rye Foreign and Northern Rother Division, Angharad Davies.

LG18/15. **VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chairman wished to thank all Members of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee for their attendance and contribution to the debates that had taken place over the past year, and thanked the work of the officers, whom he had found to be very supportive.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 6:58pm

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