

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting held on 16 January 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors William Grant (Chair), Kenneth Bell, Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Martin Kilbride and Duncan Townson.

Apologies: Councillors Bob Pollock and Gavin Scott.

Attending: K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing and Depute Clerk to the Board; L. McChristie, Co-ordinator – Licensing and Depute Clerk to the Board; C. Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that it would be broadcast live.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Board in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Date of Next Board Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday 13 February 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The [Minutes](#) of the Meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board of 5 December 2024 (issued) were submitted.

Decided: to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting.

4. Update by Licensing Standards Officer (LSO)

The Licensing Standards Officer advised

- (1) that January was traditionally a quiet month for the licensed trade as most people recovered from a busy festive period and that it was usual practice for the Trade to reflect on what should have been one of the busiest times of year for hospitality and plan for the coming months;

- (2) that she would like to thank members of the Trade who had taken time to talk to her in detail about their experience over the past few months and shared concerns and plans for the future. She had been able to gain information from a variety of operators throughout South Ayrshire and whilst the experiences of each had varied, there was a universal opinion that customers were very cautious to spend money and were very much aware of costs so had not been as keen to eat out or stay out as long as they may have previously. The off sales were still consistently busy and it was reported that minimum pricing had not reduced alcohol sales, but that customers may be less likely to purchase additional food items to make up for the price difference;
- (3) that the impact of price increases in business rates and electricity had been felt by the on sale trade, but the largest and most significant challenge was staffing. Following the recent budget, many premises had decided to reduce trading days and/or staff working hours. Operators had expressed concerns that raising their prices to accommodate the rise in National Insurance would simply price them out of the market and encourage the public to buy off sales and stay at home. Members would be aware of statistics presented at past Board meetings by representatives of the NHS and associated health teams which had indicated that off sales were predominantly the concern in relation to harmful drinking as regulated consumption of alcohol in an on sales venue would slow down and reduce the amount consumed, particularly when there were other social activities, company and food. By reducing the affordability of attending an on sales venue, many people were deciding to drink at home and the social aspect of hospitality was also lost;
- (4) that the licensed trade was facing a further cost increase next month from suppliers who would be increasing their prices to accommodate the rise in National Insurance in relation to their staff. This meant that those who supplied the on trade would be increasing their costs and that as a result of this a handful of operators had decided not to continue and the premises had been either put up for sale, leased or returned to the landlord;
- (5) that there were several premises who had already approached licensing for information and guidance in relation to making applications to vary their licence to permit new activities or introduce additional trading space (including outdoor space) to allow sustainability of the business and that she was working with operators to ensure that future applications were in line with the Board's policy, the licensing objectives and met the requirements of the premises and expected to see these applications at Board meetings in the future;
- (6) that staffing remained an issue in licensed premises with employers reporting difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff and with many experienced staff having left the industry in the past few years. Members would be aware that it was a requirement that all staff who worked in licensed premises were trained in line with the Licensing (Scotland) Act. However, in order to ensure the licensing objectives were upheld and the premises were run safely and effectively, it was important that staff were also trained in conflict management and remained vigilant regarding the behaviour of patrons whilst they were in the premises and exiting from them;
- (7) that a few premises had been highlighted by patrons suggesting that further staff training may be required. For this reason, she would be carrying out visits to premises in the next few months to ensure staff training was being carried out and that staff were aware of the internal policies and procedures, particularly in relation to proof of age checks, refusing service and recognising and preventing inappropriate behaviour; and
- (8) that she would report back to future meetings any premises who were not willing to address any shortfalls in staff training requirements.

Members of the Board reiterated the importance of training within licensed premises and noted that a report back would be appreciated.

The Board

Decided: to note the update from the LSO.

5. Licensing Standards Officer Request for Delegated Powers re Occasional Licences

There was submitted a [request](#) (issued) by the Licensing Standards Officer for Delegated Powers for Occasional Licences for named regular applicants until 31 December 2025 and confirmed that any concerns in relation to any of the licensing objectives or the Board's policy would continue to be referred to the Board for decision.

The Board

Decided: to grant delegated powers to the Clerk and Depute Clerks to the Licensing Board to grant applications as described in the report by the Licensing Standards Officer.

6. Applications for Transfers Granted Under Delegated Powers

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 3 January 2025 by the Clerk to the Licensing Board advising of the following determination of an application for the Transfer of a Licence between the last Board meeting and this Board:-

- (1) Turnberry Holiday Park, Kirkoswald Road, Turnberry – transferred to Turnberry Holiday Park (Scotland) Ltd on 19 December 2024.

The Board

Decided: to note the transfer granted under delegated powers.

7. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

(a) Application for Variation of Premises Licence

The Board considered the following application:

Applicant

(1) Santokh Singh

Premises

Toll Mini Market
157-159 Ayr Road
Prestwick

	Existing Licensed Hours		Proposed Licensing Hours	
	On Sales	Off Sales	On Sales	Off Sales
Monday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Tuesday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Wednesday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Thursday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Friday	N/A	10:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Saturday	N/A	10:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Sunday	N/A	12:30 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00

Change off sales alcohol display area to 14.65m2.

Background music will be played during all trading hours Monday – Sunday.

Having heard from the Co-ordinator – Licensing and Depute Clerk to the Board and the applicant's representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

(b) **Application for Extended Hours**

The Board considered the following applications:-

Applicant

M.E.T. Corporate Ltd

Premises

Mulligans
7-9 Arthur Street
Ayr

Superbowl 2025 - 09/02/25 – 01.30 a.m. to 03.30 a.m.

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer and the applicant's representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the application on the basis that it was a special event catered for on the premises, and not an event of local or national significance.

(c) **Premises Licences Ceasing to Exist**

The Board noted that the following licence now ceased to exist as the licence had been surrendered.

Fourways, 1 Annbank Road, Mossblown

Decided: to note the Premises Licence ceasing to exist.

8. **Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked officers and the Board for their hard work and concluded the meeting.

The meeting ended at 10.30 a.m.