

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum in County Buildings, Ayr on Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 10am.

- Present:** Catrina Andrew (Chair), Sukhuinderjit Sangha, David Cuthill, Janice Lindsay, Paul Zive, Rachael Rennie, and Sandy Paton
- Officers:** A Steven, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services
- Apologies:** Alex Kelly, Sergeant Kathryn Thornton and Sergeant David Markin

The Licensing Standards Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum and reminded them that a meeting with the Licensing Board would follow at 11am. Sergeant Sheryl Syme has retired from Police Scotland and will be replaced by Sergeant David Markin.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of the previous Forum meeting of 28 August 2024

The Chair advised that a letter had been sent to the Board expressing support to them for approving innovative ideas.

Janice Lindsay, seconded by Rachael Rennie, moved approval of the minute of the 28 August 2024.

The Forum

Decided: to approve the minutes.

3. Minutes of previous Board Meetings

The minutes of the Board meetings of the 19 September 2024 and 24 October 2024 were circulated and the following was discussed:-

- the request for a letter to be sent to the Scottish Government requesting that the Minimum Unit Price (MUP) for Alcohol be re-examined;
- the application for transfer under delegated powers of the Horseshoe Bar in Ayr. They have submitted a planning application for change of use to an off-licence. If approved they would have to apply for a variation and not an off-sale licence as they are a licenced premises which includes off-licence;
- the application for variation from Ye Olde Forte Bar in Ayr for the removal of condition 2 – “There shall be no live music on the premises”. The new operator inherited this condition from one previous owner and had to provide an acoustic report for the condition to be removed;

- the application for an occasional licence for a bus bar to be parked on Miller Road for an event being held by Urquhart Opticians. Although this could have been approved under delegated powers, it was taken to the Board to allow for it to be made public and so that other members of the trade were aware of the event. No complaints were received however there was a discussion on the process if complaints were made;
- outstanding fees and how although there is not a requirement to renew licences the fee is due by 1 October each year in order to maintain the licence. There were 25 outstanding at 1 October and Section 14 Notices were issued. There are five still outstanding and these will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board;
- warnings had been provided to premises regarding irresponsible Halloween promotions and the LSO was to report back if any further issues arose;
- how it was common practice for premises to apply for a provisional premises licence for re-assurance before investing in premises for then a licence to be refused;
- the application for a provisional premises licence for the old Bank of Scotland building in Troon which will have accommodation on the top floor and a restaurant on the ground floor;
- the refusal of the application for an occasional licence for the firework display at the Dam Park in Ayr; and
- Ayr Railway Welfare Club surrendering their licence.

4. Preparation for Discussion with the Board

(i) Minimum Pricing Alcohol

There was a discussion on the increase of the minimum pricing of alcohol in Scotland from 50p per unit to 65p per unit. Feedback overall was negative and there has been an increase in theft and abuse towards staff. The correspondence from the Scottish Government to the Council on this was minimal and people who were alcohol dependent are going without heating and food due to the increased prices. Although this money is going to retailers, the retailers are worse off as the sales are decreasing.

(ii) Alcohol at Family Events

Members were supportive of the decision by the Board to refuse the sale of alcohol at the fireworks. The application had been for five hours with the firework display only lasting 20 minutes. There was also a discussion on alcohol sales at the Ayr Show and how it was ever increasing that alcohol is available at family events.

5. AOB

There was a discussion on the voting system at Board Meetings and how it was confusing. This would be raised at the meeting with the Board at 11am.

6. Date and Time of the next Forum Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 12 March 2025 at 10am.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am