

Shetland Islands Area Licensing Board
Remote Link
Monday 21 September 2020 at 10 a.m.

Present:

A Cooper S Flaws
S Leask C Smith
G Smith

Apologies:

M Bell C Hughson

In Attendance (Officers):

P Wishart, Solicitor
D Manson, Licensing Standards Officer
CI Lindsay, Police Scotland
A Cogle, Team Leader, Administration
B Kerr, Communications Officer
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

Chairperson

Mr G Smith, Vice-Convenor to the Board, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

1. Application for Transfer of Premises Licence – Scalloway Meat Company Ltd

The Board considered a report by the Assistant Clerk to the Board that presented an application for the transfer of a premises licence to the Scalloway Meat Company Ltd.

The Solicitor introduced the report and advised that the transfer of a premises licence could normally be approved under delegated authority, but notice from the Police had been received advising that there was a connection to someone with convictions. It was explained however that the Police made no recommendation to refuse and did not provide any information for the Board's consideration. The Solicitor explained therefore that the Board has to grant the transfer of the application.

Mr G Smith moved that the Board approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr Cooper seconded.

2 Christmas and New Year Licensing Hours 2020/21

The Board considered a report by the Depute Clerk to the Board that presented the annual report on the general extension to licensing hours covering the Christmas and New Year period in 2020/21.

The Solicitor introduced the report and advised that this report is presented annually to see if the Board wish to grant a general extension over the Christmas and New Year period. He said that this had been presented early for the Board to give consideration to

the issues arising from COVID-19 with a view to addressing these matters as early as possible. The Solicitor explained that the Board has the power to grant an extension for premises licences where it is considered appropriate to do so where it is deemed an event is of significant interest locally or nationally.

In responding to a question the Solicitor confirmed that the Board could defer the decision to the November 2020, if it was so minded.

Concern was expressed in regard to the Christmas and New Year activities in terms of drinking and socialising and the scope for transmitting the disease, given that the escalation of COVID-19 is due to socialising. It was considered important to “play it safe” and proceed with the standard licencing hours already granted, during this Christmas and New Year period.

The Chair said that he was of a similar view and that the report had been presented timeously to inform the public and the licensing trade of the decision taken by the Board. He said however that because of the situation it was likely that national or local restriction would take the decision out of the Board’s hands. He said that a decision not to grant a general extension would not stop individual applications coming forward with an occasional licence application and those would be considered on their own merits, but to grant a general extension would send out the wrong message.

Mr G Smith moved that the Board do not approve the grant of a general extension for Christmas and New Year 2020/21. Mr Cooper seconded on the basis that individual applications would be considered. The Board unanimously concurred.

Decision:

The Board did not approve the grant of a general extension for Christmas and New Year 2020/21, on the basis that individual applications would be considered.

The meeting concluded at 10.15am.

Convener