

**Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 3  
Tuesday, 3rd September 2024 at 10.00 am  
In the Council Chamber at the Council House,  
Priory Road, Dudley**

**Present:**

Councillor W Little (Chair)  
Councillors S Azad and C Littler

**Officers:**

N Slym – Assistant Team Manager (Waste, Fleet and Licensing) (Directorate of Environment), S Wright – Solicitor and K Buckle – Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

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1. **Election of the Chair**

Councillor W Little was elected as Chair for this meeting of the Sub-Committee only.

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2. **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor A Taylor.

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3. **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor W Little had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor A Taylor for this meeting of the Sub-Committee only.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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5. **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2023, be approved as a correct record, and signed.

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6. **Application for a Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit – The Hunting Tree, Alexandra Road, Halesowen**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted in respect of an application for the grant of a Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit for three category C machines at the premises known as The Hunting Tree, Alexandra Road, Halesowen.

The following persons were in attendance, at the meeting: -

S Tulley – Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS)

G Domleo – Flint Bishop LLP – Representing the Hunting Tree

Following introductions the Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) presented the report on behalf of the Council, referring to the current premises licensing hours and activities at the premises.

It was reported that the application had been received from Flint Bishop LLP on behalf of Punch Partnership Limited for the grant of a licensed premises Gaming Machine Permit for three category C Machines with a site plan being provided on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024, identifying the positioning of all three machines which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

Mr Domleo advised that Punch Partnership Limited was wholly a subsidiary of Heineken with the Hunting Tree being purchased in March 2018, and the DPS being employed since January 2023.

It was reported that there had been no issues at the premises to date and there were procedures in place for staff training and dealing with any issues of concern.

It was stated that on an operational basis the two machines were situated in the bar area, and it was intended that the third machine would be situated in the lounge area, all were in the sight of and observed by the staff with all machines being digitalised displaying age restricted messages.

It was further reported that it was a policy of the company that all those under the age of 18 be accompanied by an adult on the licensed premises.

The Solicitor provided a summary of the case, referring to the relevant law and Licensing Objectives that members of the Sub-Committee would be required to consider, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the application.

The Sub-Committee having made their decision invited the parties to return and the Chair and the Solicitor outlined the decision.

### **Resolved**

That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the grant of a Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit for three Category C machines at the premises known as The Hunting Tree, Alexandra Road, Halesowen, be approved.

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7. **Application for Grant of a New Premises Licence – Ghana Black Star Supermarket, 4 Birdcage Walk, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley.**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted on an application for the grant of a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as Ghana Black Star Supermarket, 4 Birdcage Walk, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley.

F Nsiah Gyebi, the Applicant attended the meeting.

Following introductions, the Assistant Team Manager (Waste, Fleet and Licensing) then presented the report on behalf of the Council, referring to the representations received from B Evans a local business owner, who had expressed concerns regarding the possibility of anti-social behaviour and the previous anti-social behaviour at the former bus station, which was within proximity to the Churchill Shopping Centre.

The Applicant was invited to present his case and in doing so advised the Sub-Committee that primarily he intended to stock Ghanaian alcohol which

would meet the needs of his customer base, however dependent upon demand he would extend the range of alcohol beverages available in the future.

It was noted that no objections had been received from West Midlands Police to the application.

In responding to clarification questions from S Wright, the applicant confirmed that Closed Circuit Television CCTV was installed on the premises, would be available for inspection and would be acted upon in any cases of anti-social behaviour.

The Applicant stated that he had been employed within security for a period of ten years, his customer base was predominantly Ghanaian who knew of his security background.

The Applicant also stated that signage would be in place at the premises prohibiting drinking outside the premises.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Applicant confirmed that he would not sell alcohol to those who he believed may cause anti-social behaviour.

The Solicitor provided a summary of the case, referring to the Licensing Objectives that members of the Sub-Committee would be required to consider, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the application.

Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

### **Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted and presented at the meeting, the application for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as Ghana Black Start Supermarket, 4 Birdcage Walk, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley be approved.

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### 8. **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

There were no questions to the Chair pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.8.

The meeting ended at 11.10pm

CHAIR