

MINUTES of a meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the Canteen, Council Offices, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2003.

Present: Councillor P Hyde (Chairman) (In the Chair)

Councillors J Collins, J G Coxon, R A Evans, P Holland, D Howe, J T Male, G Tacey and J B Webster.

Officers: Messrs G Crossley, J R Kirkham and J E Peters.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A C Saffell, D J Stevenson and D H Wintle.

There were no declarations of interest.

28. MINUTES

... Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2003 (copy previously circulated and retained with the official copy of the minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2003 be approved and signed as a correct record.

29. DOWNLOAD 2003 ROCK FESTIVAL, DONINGTON PARK, CASTLE DONINGTON

Mr Kirkham introduced the application for an occasional outdoor public entertainment licence in respect of the Download 2003 Rock Festival to be held at Donington Park on Saturday 31 May/Sunday 1 June 2003.

... Members noted that the application had been referred to the Licensing Committee for determination because an objection to the application had been lodged by Leicestershire Constabulary and officers were not authorised to grant applications under delegated authority where objections had been made. However a letter had been received by E-mail from Leicestershire Constabulary on 21 May 2003 notifying the Council's Head of Environmental Protection that the police had withdrawn their objection. A transcript of the e-mail and an extract of a letter sent to the finance officer at the Leicestershire Constabulary from the promoter of the Download 2003 Festival were circulated to members (copies retained with the official copy of the minutes).

Chairman's initials

In response to a question from a member asking why Leicestershire Constabulary had originally objected to the application, Mr Crossley explained that the original application had been assessed on expected ticket sales of approximately 72,000. However approximately 4 weeks before the scheduled event, the promoter had realised that ticket sales would not reach the estimated number and he requested a reduction in the scale of police provision. A disagreement had arisen between the promoter and Leicestershire Constabulary because the police wished to retain the same policing levels to address any contingency arrangements. In addition the police wanted to obtain the full recovery of their policing costs and the promoter believed that certain aspects of the police costings did not follow the Home Office guidance which set out the basis upon which the policing charges were properly recoverable.

A meeting between the promoter and Leicestershire Constabulary had taken place on 19 May to discuss the outstanding matters and an agreement was reached on police costings and a revised traffic management plan. The police had subsequently confirmed that they no longer had an objection to the grant of the entertainment licence for this event and members were being asked to grant the licence in respect of the festival, subject to relevant terms, conditions and restrictions contained in regulations made by the authority relating to such licences and to any additional conditions recommended by the Council's Head of Environmental Protection. A copy of the proposed occasional licence was circulated to members for consideration.

Mr Crossley drew members attention to paragraphs 17(2) (the number of police officers) and 29.1 (traffic management plan).

In response to questions from councillors on staffing costs to the District Council and monitoring at the event, Mr Crossley confirmed that the District Council's full costs would be charged to the applicant and that monitoring of the event would be carried out by staff from the Symonds Group and 4 council officers. An advert had been placed in a local newspaper giving details of telephone numbers that the public could use to report nuisance, disturbance or to log complaints during the event.

Councillor Coxon asked whether it was intended to hold a site meeting before the festival commenced. A site visit would provide an opportunity for councillors to view the security and safety of the site and the camping and traffic management arrangements.

Members discussed whether in future the Licensing Committee should consider all outdoor public entertainment licence applications with a projected capacity over 10,000 persons. Mr Kirkham confirmed that he had given some consideration to the powers of the committee prior to the meeting and he felt that the group could, in principle, ask officers to refer all outdoor applications for the Group's consideration if they exceeded a set number.

Finally, Mr Crossley pointed out that the Download Rock Festival was in fact the first 2 day entertainment event at Donington Park since 1980 but he understood that the promoters wanted to build up the event to either a 3 day or 4 day festival in the future.

Chairman's initials

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the application for an occasional outdoor public entertainment licence in respect of the Download 2003 Rock Festival to be held at Donington Park on Saturday, 31 May/Sunday 1 June 2003 be granted subject to the relevant terms, conditions and restrictions contained in regulations made by the authority relating to such licences, a copy of which had been provided to the promoter and circulated to members at the meeting.
- (b) That the Council's Head of Environmental Protection arrange a site visit for any interested members of the Licensing Committee for Friday, 30 May 2003.
- (c) That the Manager of Central Support present a report to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee on the implications of referring applications for occasional outdoor public entertainment licences where there was an expected occupancy exceeding 10,000 persons.

Councillor J T Male entered the meeting at 6.40pm.

Councillor D Howe left the meeting at 6.46pm.

The meeting terminated at 7.00pm

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Chairman's initials