

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 6PM, ON
THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 2022
ENGINE SHED, SAND MARTIN HOUSE, BITTERN WAY, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Warren Chairman (Chair), Councillors Cllr Allen, Fitzgerald, Hiller, Joseph, Wiggin, Hogg, I Hussain and M Hussain

Officers Present: Gareth Brighton, Licensing and Business Manager
Colin Miles, Litigation Lawyer
Maria Crowe, Apprentice Regulatory Officer - Licensing
Karen S Dunleavy

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres and Sandra Bond. Councillors Fitzgerald and Hogg were in attendance as substitute.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. PUTTSTARS, UNIT LL1 FIRST & SECOND FLOOR, QUEENSGATE SHOPPING CENTRE, PETERBOROUGH, PE1 1NT.

The Licensing Committee received an application in relation to a Licensed Premises Gaming Permit (as defined by Section 283 of the Gambling Act 2005) for the use of thirty five (35) Category D gaming machines to be located at Unit LL1 First & Second Floor, Queensgate Shopping Centre, Peterborough, PE1 1NT

The purpose of the report was to determine the application for a Licensed Premises Gaming Permit for the use of thirty five (35) Category D gaming machines to be located at Unit LL1 First & Second Floor, Queensgate Shopping Centre, Peterborough, PE1 1NT

The Licensing and Business Manager introduced the report and asked Members to consider the gambling permit application.

The Licensing Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

Regulatory Officer presented their representation. Comments and responses to questions included:

- Licensing Officers were sufficiently confident that principles for vulnerable people and children were in place to protect them, under the code of practice at appendix D of the guidance.
- A machine would constitute a player position, so for example one machine with eight positions could constitute eight machines although it would be one machine.
- The amusement machines were classed as Category D and low stake machines that would be found at seaside resorts with a denomination of around 30 pence penny machines, with a maximum prize value of eight pounds. The gambling stake amounts varied but would usually start at a 10 pence.
- There had been a mistake on the application form made by the applicant in relation to who the application fee would be payable to, and therefore, should not be payable to Preston City Council.
- The main purpose of the premises would be for entertainment such as it bowling and mini golf and the category D gambling machines would be sited on the periphery.
- The application was in line with other bowling establishments that would operate Category D gambling machines.
- The Police and Gambling Commission had not objected or commented about the application and the premises was intended as an amusement outlet rather than a casino style premises.

The Applicant's representative presented their representation. Comments and responses to questions included:

- The error in the application in relation to the application fee had been a typo and should be addressed to Peterborough City Council.
- The premises was intended to operate as a Puttstars and was one in 60 ten pin bowling premises and mini golf premises in the country.
- The premises was due to open in October 2022. Each premises had an alcohol license, and a gaming machine permits. The applicant was applying for Category D gaming machines, and therefore, had not been in the same league as a premises that operated as a casino or betting office.
- The primary purpose for the premises was to play ten pin bowling or mini golf. The balance of income turnover was taken from a restaurant and a bar.
- Playing positions would take place over number of machines, however, it would not constitute 35 physical gambling machines. For example, a penny gambling machine could have eight player positions at one machine.
- The category D gambling machines would be split between the ground floor level and second floor of the premises and positioned around the bowling and golfing activities. The layout to be provided would be standard and had worked across other locations nationally.
- All members of staff were trained, and policies would be in place.
- In relation to permits granted nationally, there had been no issues with premises that operated Category D gambling machines and the Gambling Commission, or any other authority had not raised concerns about the operation.
- The site at Sturrock Way in Peterborough had a permit for 12 Category C gambling machines and 22 Category D machines. The current application for Puttstars in Queensgate had been for a higher number of Category D machines as the area applied for was larger and was the reason why the application had been presented to Committee.
- It was intended to employ 25 – 34 members of staff, which would include a management team.

The Licensing Committee considered the Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities and the Peterborough City Council statement of principles. The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to **GRANT** the application made under the Gambling Act 2005 as applied for.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Licensing Committee felt that the application would not undermine any of the three licensing objectives contained within section 1 of the Act.

CHAIRMAN
END 6:36PM