

**MINUTES of MEETING of PLANNING, PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND LICENSING
COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on MONDAY, 27 AUGUST 2018**

Present: Councillor David Kinniburgh (Chair)

Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Audrey Forrest
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Graham Archibald Hardie
Councillor Lorna Douglas	Councillor Donald MacMillan

Attending: Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law
Jayne Jones, Commercial Manager, Argyll and Bute Council – Applicant
John Black, Objector

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rory Colville, Mary-Jean Devon, George Freeman, Roderick McCuish, Jean Moffat, Alastair Redman, Sandy Taylor and Richard Trail.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982: APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL FOR HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE, HELENSBURGH)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He then outlined the procedure that would be followed and invited the Applicant to speak in support of the application.

APPLICANT

Ms Jones advised that the Council were currently looking at alternatives to service reductions and the catering and cleaning service were investigating ways to generate additional income for the Council. She said that the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre had a number of rooms for hire to members of the public which were capable of accommodating corporate events and other functions. She advised that a Public Entertainment Licence would allow the Council to offer the rooms for hire in as flexible a way as possible. She referred to the launch of an event, Street Food Sunday on 1 July 2018 and said that this had been very successful with 13 food market stalls. She advised that the event enabled the stallholders to generate additional income for their businesses and that it also allowed the Council to open up its doors to the building and gardens and enabled staff to show case the facilities, for example, the marriage suite and café. She added that the music that day, which was held as a result of a temporary Public Entertainment Licence, went down well and she indicated that they had a number of other events planned for the future to support the community and the premises. She pointed out that having a Public Entertainment Licence was important for their success as it would enable them to

offer live music and widen the appeal of such events which would generate income for not only the musicians but also the Council and the wider community.

OBJECTOR

Mr Black advised that he objected to the application for a Public Entertainment Licence for the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre. He referred to the application being made in accordance with the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and said that he could see no provision in the Act for a Council to consider an application from itself. He said that he presumed that the legislation was written in the understanding that the role of local government was to provide basic services and not to run markets and public entertainment. He commented that if the staff housed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre were bored, there were many ways they could participate in the activities of the town. He stated that he objected to public facilities being used in competition with legitimate businesses.

Mr Black pointed out that at one time the former primary school for the Parish of Rhu was an active community centre. He said that this building had been neglected by Argyll and Bute Council, was declared dangerous, and the community had to find other venues. He referred to the Civic Centre being an under used asset and commented that the Council's answer was to throw money at it. He advised that adding to an existing deficit was no way to run a business. He referred to a recent community event in which Councillor Aileen Morton spoke and also to a newspaper article by Councillor Trail. He said that after listening to Councillor Morton and reading the article by Councillor Trail, it was his opinion that this was a sorry state to be in. He said that the elected Members could not think and had no vision for Helensburgh. He referred to the Helensburgh CHORD project and stated that this had been a disaster from beginning to end. He referred to the current Helensburgh Pierhead project and pointed out that it would be run by the same team that was responsible for the CHORD project. He suggested alternative uses for the Helensburgh Pierhead funding. He advised that the CHORD project did not address the needs of the town. He referred to the recent food festival event and advised that this cost between £2,000 and £3,000 and did not include the cost of staff wages nor the cost of hiring a generator. He stated that the event brought very little business to the town.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Councillor Blair asked Mr Black if he participated in the local Community Council. Mr Black replied that he had a website and reached out to the community through that.

Councillor Currie asked Mr Black what his presentation had to do with the application. Mr Black advised that the Council were looking to use the facilities to compete directly with businesses in Helensburgh.

Councillor Kinniburgh referred to Mr Black's comment about the Civic Centre being an under used asset. He asked if Mr Black would agree that through applying for a Public Entertainment Licence the Council would bring this asset from being under used to one that was well used. Mr Black referred to the previous asset, the community centre, being well used but falling into disrepair. He advised that groups then had to go elsewhere which was a problem. He said that the Council were going about it the wrong way of trying to bring these groups back.

Councillor Kinniburgh acknowledged that the community centre was well used in the past. He asked Mr Black if he would agree that what was being proposed would bring to the community something the community could use. Mr Black replied, no.

Councillor Douglas referred to the proposed use of the building and asked Ms Jones if this was something that was also being looked at by other local authorities. Ms Jones confirmed that this was the case. She advised that the Council would operate the building in terms of leasing it and that the Council was also interested in working in partnership with local groups and that other local authorities were also doing this.

Councillor Blair asked why a generator was required for the food festival and if this would be a regular need for future events. Ms Jones advised that it had been required on that occasion due to the number and type of stalls which were all outside and, having taken advice from Health and Safety Officers, the generator was recommended. Ms Jones said that for other events, such as craft fairs, a generator would not be required.

Councillor Hardie asked Mr Black if he would agree that due to the success of the first event it would be appropriate to have other events. Mr Black advised that the last event lost money.

SUMMING UP

Objector

Mr Black advised that he had nothing further to add and left the meeting at this point.

Applicant

Ms Jones advised that the aim was to reduce the need for service reductions and to bring additional income to the Council and to the Helensburgh area. She advised that a Public Entertainment Licence would assist with the delivery of this.

Ms Jones confirmed that she had received a fair hearing.

DECISION

The Committee unanimously agreed to grant a Public Entertainment Licence to Argyll and Bute Council for the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance and Law, submitted)