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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE VIA ZOOM
ON FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2026 AT 10.00 AM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Alistair Willoughby (Chair), Bryony May, Steven Patmore and Stewart Willoughby.*

In Attendance: *Luca Benedito (Trainee Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), Robert Filby (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), Melanie Gillespie (Licensing Officer), Joe Mannix (Licensing & Community Safety Manager) and Dimple Roopchand (Legal Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer).*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting approximately* 13 *members of the public, including registered speakers.*

6 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Councillor Steven Patmore proposed and Councillor Stewart Willoughby seconded and, it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Alistair Willoughby be appointed as Chair for this meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

7 ELECTION OF A RESERVE MEMBER

Councillor Steven Patmore proposed and Councillor Stewart Willougby seconded and, it was:

RESOVLED: That Councillor Bryony May be appointed as Reserve Member for this meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

8 HEARING PROCEDURE

The Sub-Committee noted the hearing procedure.

9 REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF BRIDGETOWN MONROE, 6 BUCKLERSBURY, HITCHIN, HERTS, SG5 1BB

The Licensing Officer presented the report entitled ‘Application by Alan Stone for the review of a Premises Licence in respect of Bridgetown Monroe, 6 Bucklersbury, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1BB.’

The report together with questions and submissions from the Other Person requesting the review, the Responsible Authorities, the Other Persons supporting and opposing the review, and the Premises Licence Holder, as well as advice from the Legal Advisor, was considered.

10 DECISION NOTICE

The agreed decision notice is attached as part of the Minutes of this meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm

Chair

Decision Notice

Date of Hearing	Friday 6th November 2026
Members of Panel	Councillors Alistair Willoughby, Steve Patmore, Stewart Willoughby Bryony May (Reserve Member)
Premises Licence Holder(s) Name	Good Boy Wolf (Christopher Dodd)
Premises Address	Bridgetown Monroe, 6 Bucklersbury, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 1BB
Date of Application	21 August 2026
APPLICATION FOR REVIEW	This is an application for a review of a Premises Licence under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003. The Sub-Committee has read the material presented to it and has listened to all the evidence and submissions. The Sub-Committee has considered the National Guidance and the Statement of Licensing Policy and has come to the following decision: The Sub-Committee has decided to: a) Remove the Designated Premises Supervisor. b) Suspend the licence for a period of 28 days or until a new Designated Premises Supervisor is appointed by the Premises Licence Holder. c) Modify the conditions of the premises licence
AMENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITY TIMINGS	**Section F: Recorded Music (Indoors)** Monday – Thursday 11:00 to 23:00 Friday – Saturday 11:00 to 00:00 Sunday 11:00 to 22:30 The timings for any evening leading into an English Bank Holiday shall be 00:00. **Section I: Late Night Refreshments (Indoors)** Monday – Thursday 11:00 to 23:00 Friday – Saturday 11:00 to 00:00 Sunday 11:00 to 22:30

	The timings for any evening leading into an English Bank Holiday shall be 00:00. **Section J: Sale or Supply of Alcohol (for consumption on the premise)** Monday – Thursday 11:00 to 23:00 Friday – Saturday 11:00 to 00:00 Sunday 11:00 to 22:30 The timings for any evening leading into an English Bank Holiday shall be 00:00. **The opening hours of the premises** Monday – Thursday 11:00 to 23:00 Friday – Saturday 11:00 to 00:30 Sunday 11:00 to 22:30 The timings for any evening leading into an English Bank Holiday shall be 00:30.
CONDITIONS ADDED AND AMENDED WITHIN THE LICENCE BY THE LSC	New Conditions a) Chris Dodd shall undertake no activity in relation to the duties of the DPS including the day-to-day operation of the business and sale or supply of alcohol. As the Premises Licence holder, Chris Dodd shall still retain all responsibility in relation to the Premises Licence. b) No external seating, tables, or the consumption of food or drink shall be permitted outside the premises. c) The licence holder shall submit a Noise Management Plan to Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority for written approval. This Plan must be agreed Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority at least 7 days prior to reopening the premises. The premises shall operate in accordance with the submitted plan from the date of agreement and in accordance with the approved plan at all times thereafter. The plan shall not be amended without the express approval of Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority. d) The licence holder shall submit a schedule of works for the installation of acoustic insulation to Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority for written approval. The schedule of works must be agreed at least 7 days prior to reopening the premises. The premises may only reopen with the written

	agreement of Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority and shall thereafter operate in accordance with the approved schedule of works and the Noise Management Plan at all times. Where the premises are permitted to reopen before all works identified in the approved schedule have been completed, the licence holder shall ensure that any mitigation measures specified within the Noise Management Plan are fully implemented until such works are completed. The schedule of works shall not be amended without the prior written approval of Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority. e) No live music performances or DJ-led entertainment shall take place at the premises. f) No bottles or glass shall be deposited or placed in external receptacles between 19:00 and 09:00am. g) The Designated Premises Supervisor, or a person authorised by the Designated Premises Supervisor, shall be present at the premises at all times whilst the premises is open to the public. h) A member of staff who is trained and authorised to access and operate the CCTV system shall be present at the premises at all times whilst the premises is open to the public. i) An incident log shall be maintained at the premises and shall record all incidents occurring at the premises. Entries shall be made within 24 hours of the incident, and the log shall be made available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or Police upon request. j) A designated smoking area shall be provided away from any residential access and shall be equipped with suitable receptacles for the disposal of smoking-related litter. The smoking area shall be monitored by SIA-licensed door supervisors whenever they are on duty, to ensure patrons do not cause nuisance or disturbance to nearby residents. k) The exemption provided by section 177A of the Licensing Act 2003 shall not apply to this Premises Licence. All conditions relating to music and entertainment shall remain in force and be enforceable at all times whilst the premises is open. Amended conditions: l) To remove the last condition on the schedule relating to the NMP being submitted to the Licensing authority for approval prior to the first use of the extended hours of opening.
CONDITIONS PROPOSED BY THE LICENCE HOLDER IN	The following conditions offered up by the premises licence are to be added to the licence:

RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW AND ACCEPTED BY THE LSC	A5 All external doors and windows shall be kept closed after 21:00 except for access and egress. The front door shall be fitted with a self-closing device. B3. Clear and legible notices shall be displayed at the exit asking customers to leave quietly and to respect residents. A telephone number for the manager shall be displayed so that it can be read from outside the premises, for residents to report noise or anti-social behaviour, and shall be answered during trading hours. B4. A complaints log shall be kept recording every complaint received, the action taken and the outcome, and shall be made available to authorised officers on request. C4. The Police shall be called immediately to any incident of violence or disorder at or immediately outside the premises. All incidents, including ejections, injuries, disorder and CCTV faults, shall be recorded in the incident book within 24 hours and the book made available to authorised officers on request. C5. A written risk assessment shall be completed before any advertised event, covering door staff numbers, capacity control and dispersal, and shall be available for inspection. C7. The premises shall remain a member of Hitchin Pubwatch. The manager, the DPS or a nominated senior member of staff shall attend its meetings, and attendance shall be recorded. C8. The premises shall not display or distribute any promotional material that contains offensive language or that promotes free or discounted alcohol in a manner that breaches the mandatory conditions. All promotional material shall be approved by the DPS before display. C10. All staff shall receive documented training on the licensing objectives, the conditions of the licence, the Noise Management Plan, conflict management and dispersal before working unsupervised, with refresher training at least every six months. Training records shall be kept for two years and made available to authorised officers on request.
EFFECT OF FAILING TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS EXPLAINED TO APPLICANT	The effect of failure to comply with any of the conditions attached to the licence or certificate is a criminal offence, which upon conviction, would result in an unlimited fine or up to six months imprisonment or both.
STATUTORY GUIDANCE CONSIDERATIONS	The Sub-Committee has taken into account the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (September 2026 version) in reaching its decision. It has found the following sections to be of particular relevance in reaching this decision:

	Sections 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 1.17; 1.18; 1.19; 2.1; 2.3; 2.5; 2.8; 2.20; 2.21; 2.22; 2.24; 2.26; 2.27; 9.12; 9.17; 9.18; 9.27; 9.29; 9.30; 9.42; 9.43; 9.44; 10.8; 10.9; 10.10; 10.38; 10.41; 10.42; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.8; 11.9; 11.10; 11.17; 11.18; 11.19; 11.20; 11.21; 11.22; 11.23; 16.57; 16.58
LICENSING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS	The Sub-Committee has taken into account the North Hertfordshire District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy in reaching its decision. They have found the following sections to be of particular relevance in reaching this decision. **Sections** B1; B18; B19; B20; B21; D2.1; D2.4; D2.5; D2.6; D2.8; D2.9; D6.2; D6.3; D6.8; D7.4; D7.9; D8.3; D11.1; D11.2; D11.3; D11.4; D11.5; D11.8; D11.9; D11.10; D12.7; E1.4.1; E1.4.4; E1.4.5; E.1.4.6; E1.8.1; E2.1; E2.7.1; E3.1.1; E3.1.4; E3.2.1; E3.2.2; E3.2.3; E3.2.4; E3.2.5; E3.3.1; E3.8.1; E3.8.2; E3.9.1; E3.9.2; E3.9.3; E4.1; F4.1; F8.1; F8.2; F8.3; O1.1; O2.2;
RATIONALE FOR DECISION	1. In reaching its decision, the Sub-Committee carefully considered the submissions made by: - The Applicant for the review, - Those supporting the review, - Those opposing the review - The Responsible Authorities, and - The Premises Licence Holder. 2. The Sub-Committee was mindful of the need to strike an appropriate balance between safeguarding the licensing objectives and allowing the premises to continue operating as a legitimate business. 3. The Sub-Committee carefully considered whether revocation of the Premises Licence was necessary and accepted that revocation would have been a proportionate response to the matters raised during the review. However, having considered all of the evidence before it, Members concluded that a period of suspension, together with amendments to the licence conditions and operating hours, would be sufficient to promote the licensing objectives and therefore represented the most appropriate course of action at this time. 4. Members considered the evidence relating to the removal of the statutory notice advertising the review application.

	Members noted that the Premises Licence Holder initially stated that he did not know who had removed the notice, but subsequent evidence demonstrated that he had in fact removed it himself. Members were concerned by this inconsistency and considered it relevant to their assessment of the credibility of the evidence and the level of confidence that could be placed in the management of the premises. Whilst not determinative on its own, this matter informed Members' decision on the appropriate and proportionate steps required to rebuild trust and confidence between the Premises Licence Holder, local residents, the Licensing Authority, and Hertfordshire Constabulary. 5. In respect of the prevention of public nuisance licensing objective, Members had regard to the close proximity of neighbouring residential properties and the evidence of disturbance presented during the hearing. Members were satisfied that reducing the permitted opening hours and the hours for certain licensable activities would assist in addressing many of the concerns raised by residents and responsible authorities. 6. Members also had regard to the evidence presented by the Applicant and those supporting the review concerning complaints made about the premises and the perceived lack of effective action taken in response. Members were satisfied that the revised hours and additional conditions would assist in promoting the prevention of public nuisance, the prevention of crime and disorder, and public safety, particularly in relation to customer dispersal. Members further considered that the revised hours would provide greater certainty for local residents regarding the cessation of noise-generating activities. 7. Members noted the concerns raised regarding the management of noise at the premises. The Premises Licence Holder acknowledged these concerns during the hearing. The Sub-Committee expects that attention will be given to the

	effective implementation of the Noise Management Plan and to the day-to-day operation of the premises in order to minimise disruption to neighbouring residents and promote the prevention of public nuisance. 8. Members further considered it appropriate to remove from the Premises Licence the exemption provided by section 177A of the Licensing Act 2003. This will ensure that all conditions relating to music and entertainment remain enforceable and apply at all times whilst the premises is open to the public. 9. Members considered that the issues identified during the review were not isolated incidents but formed part of a longer pattern of concerns regarding the management of the premises. Taking into account the evidence presented, including concerns regarding compliance, engagement with residents, the handling of complaints, and the removal of the statutory review notice, Members concluded that they could no longer have sufficient confidence in the current day-to-day management of the premises. 10. Members therefore considered it appropriate and proportionate to remove the existing Designated Premises Supervisor and to suspend the Premises Licence until a new Designated Premises Supervisor had been appointed and approved in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Members were satisfied that these measures were necessary to promote the licensing objectives and to provide an opportunity for confidence to be rebuilt between the premises, local residents, the Licensing Authority, and Hertfordshire Constabulary. 11. Members further concluded that it was appropriate and proportionate to require that the Premises Licence Holder should not undertake the role, responsibilities, or functions of the Designated Premises Supervisor in the future. In reaching this conclusion, Members had regard to the evidence before them and considered that it demonstrated a repeated lack of judgement and management oversight incompatible with the

	responsibilities expected of a Designated Premises Supervisor.
COMMENCEMENT DATE	This decision will come into effect from the end of the period for appealing the decision (21 days starting tomorrow) or, if the decision is appealed, the point at which the appeal has been dealt with by the Magistrates' Court.
RIGHTS OF REVIEW	At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority, such as the Police, or any other person, such as a resident living in the vicinity of the premises, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. The review is a request for the Council to look at the existing licence and decide whether its conditions are adequate to meet the four licensing objectives defined under the Licensing Act 2003. Ordinarily, a further review would need to focus on matters at the premises following this review, it should not be used to re-visit issues raised at today's hearing. The licensing authority can refuse a further review on the grounds that it is repetitious