

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee** held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 20 January 2017 at 11.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Kellett (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors C Hampson and P May

Also Present:

H Johnson – Licensing Team Leader

S Buston – Solicitor (Litigation) DCC

Inspector R Stockdale – Durham Constabulary

Sgt C Dickinson – Durham Constabulary

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Application for Summary Licence Review - The Bridge Inn, 1 Gordon Lane, Ramshaw, Bishop Auckland

Consideration was given to an application received from Durham Constabulary for interim steps to be taken prior to a review hearing in relation to the premises licence for The Bridge Inn, Ramshaw, Bishop Auckland (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Licensing Team Leader advised that the Licensing Authority had received a summary licence review application under Section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 from Durham Constabulary on the afternoon of 18 January 2017 in respect of the Bridge Inn, Ramshaw. In accordance with the provisions of the Act the application must be considered within 48 hours of receipt.

The Licensing Team Leader informed Members of the interim steps the Sub-Committee could consider in accordance with the legislation, and a full hearing would be required within 28 days (by 15 February 2017). A Notice and the Certificate submitted by Durham Constabulary had been served through the post box at the premises as the premises were closed, and a number of attempts had been made to contact the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) without success.

Inspector R Stockdale and Sgt C Dickinson were in attendance to give evidence on behalf of Durham Constabulary. Members were informed that on 16 January 2016 the injured party had attended the premises to collect wages owed to him from before Christmas. The injured party alleged that the PLH had declined to pay and

therefore the injured party had stated that he would no longer work at the premises. At this point the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) allegedly punched the injured party to the side of the face. It was alleged that the PLH had a metal bar and the injured party was chased to his car.

The injured party immediately drove to the local Police Station to report the incident and sought medical help. Three people had been arrested and two were currently on Police bail. The DPS was suspected of assault and the PLH of affray.

Following a request for clarification from the Solicitor, Inspector Stockdale confirmed that the Police sought immediate suspension of the Premises Licence and the removal of the DPS as this was a very serious allegation. The actions were in contravention of the crime and disorder objective.

Following a question from Councillor Kellett, the Member was informed that medical evidence may be presented at the full review hearing.

At 11.40am the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private. After re-convening at 11.50am the Chairman delivered the Sub-Committee's decision. In reaching their decision the Sub-Committee had taken into account the application and certificate submitted by Durham Constabulary, and the verbal representations of the Police Officers.

Resolved:

That the Premises Licence be suspended with immediate effect and the DPS be removed from the Licence.