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Premises / Personal Licences Sub-Committee

10 March 2023

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PREMISES / PERSONAL LICENCES SUB-COMMITTEE,  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2023 AT 11.30 AM  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM - TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA,  
CO15 1SE**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors V Guglielmi, Casey and Coley
<b>Also Present:</b>	Councillor Winfield
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Linda Trembath (Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Michael Cook (Licensing Manager), Emma King (Licensing Officer) and Hattie Dawson-Dragisic (Performance and Business Support Officer)

**52. CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

It was moved, seconded and:

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor V Guglielmi be elected as Chairman for the meeting.

**53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Davis. Pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 34.5, Councillor Casey had been appointed to take her place on the Sub-Committee.

**54. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 8 APRIL 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee held on 8 April 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**56. REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE & LEGAL) - A.1 - APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF PERMISSION TO SHOW UNCLASSIFIED FILMS**

The Council's Licensing Manager (Michael Cook) gave a verbal summary of the written report and advised that the Sub-Committee had before it, for its consideration, as set out in item A.1 of the Report of the Assistant Director (Governance and Legal), a request for the licence holder (Michael Offord of Electric Palace Harwich) to show to the public a number of short films that had not been classified by the British Board of Film Classification. Mr Cook also informed the Sub-Committee that the films were due to be shown at the Electric Palace Harwich at the end of March 2023.

The Licensing Manager further advised the Sub-Committee that the films submitted had been arranged by two separate organisations, namely Short Film Festival and the Essex

Film Collective. They were also informed that Mr Offord had told the Licensing Office that some of the content in the films included 'Strong Adult' themes – for example nudity, swearing, self-harm, drug misuse and murder.

Michael Cook confirmed to the Sub-Committee that a Licensing Officer had viewed all of the films and had provided recommendations that were shown in Appendix C, to the aforementioned report.

Following Michael Cook's introduction of the report the Sub-Committee moved on to questions for the licence holder (Mr Offord).

Questions from Sub-Committee	Answer
Are these all going to be put on at the same time?	Mr Offord – The plan is to have 4 separate playlists all screened on the same day. So we would have a Harwich Shorts playlist and then 3 separate playlists for the Essex Film Collective. They would then be followed by questions and answers, and an opportunity for discussions around the films with the film makers.
Will those films be monitored as some are for different age groups to the others?	Mr Offord – The plan is to set the playlist to the highest rating, so if one of the films was rated an 18 the whole playlist would only be accessible to 18 and above.

The Sub-Committee concurred that, after watching the films, it was felt that some of the films were powerful and needed to be shown. They also thanked Michael Offord for creating the film festival, submitting them and attending the meeting.

The Chairman stated for the record that the Sub-Committee was requested, in accordance with the Council's constitution, to recommend to the Assistant Director (Governance and Legal) the screening of an unclassified film subject to Council Officers viewing the film and imposing an appropriate age restriction if any, having regard to the British Board of Film Classification Guidelines. The Chairman then advised that the Sub-Committee could either approve those recommendations or refuse permission to screen an unclassified film. The Chairman finally stated that, whilst there was a general provision for appeals in relation to the conditions placed on Cinema Licences, there was no right of appeal in respect of this decision.

The Chairman then asked the Head of Legal Services (Linda Trembath) if Michael Offord needed to leave the room whilst it discussed the decision. The Head of Legal Services advised that, at this point the Sub-Committee had watched all of the films, they had the guidance contained within the report, so it now just needed to decide if the Sub-Committee agreed with the Officer recommendations that had been put before it.

It was moved by Councillor Coley, seconded by Councillor Casey and RESOLVED that the film classifications, as recommended by the Officers in Appendix C to item A.1 of the Report of the Assistant Director (Governance and Legal), be endorsed.

The meeting was declared closed at 11.39 am

**Chairman**

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