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Premises / Personal Licences Sub-Committee

27 September 2024

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PREMISES / PERSONAL LICENCES SUB-COMMITTEE,
HELD ON FRIDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT 11.00 AM
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM - TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA,
CO15 1SE**

Present:	Councillors J Henderson, Smith and Wiggins
Also Present:	Councillor A Cossens (Standby)
In Attendance:	Linda Trembath (Head of Legal Services), Michael Cook (Licensing Manager), Maddie Adger (Leadership Support Manager), Sarah Opene (Litigation Lawyer), Bethany Jones (Committee Services Officer), Emma King (Licensing Officer) and Alfie Smith (Licensing Enforcement Officer)

26. ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Wiggins and:-

RESOLVED that Councillor J Henderson be elected as Chairman for the meeting.

27. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Wiggins, seconded by Councillor Smith and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on Monday, 9 September 2024, be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

The Sub-Committee was informed that Councillor Casey, who had originally been due to have attended this meeting as the fourth 'standby' Member, had had to submit his apologies due to another engagement that Councillor Casey needed to attend in his civic capacity as Chairman of the Council. Councillor A Cossens had agreed to attend in his place.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

30. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE & LEGAL) - A.1 - APPLICATION FRO THE GRANT OF PERMISSION TO SHOW UNCLASSIFIED FILM

The Sub-Committee heard that The Electric Palace at Harwich gave the opportunity to local film makers to show their films to the public through various public events. The Electric Palace, Harwich wanted to support local and regional talent and, as an exhibitor of films, the best way they felt that could be achieved was to provide an opportunity for Essex based creatives to show their films to new audiences. However, one of the major difficulties facing short film makers was the cost of obtaining a BBFC classification.

Members were told that, the film submitted by The Electric Palace, Harwich on behalf of the Harwich International Shanty Festival would be shown as part of the festival in October 2024.

The Sub-Committee was made aware that, the Harwich International Shanty Festival had been set up in 2006 to organise and co-ordinate an annual sea shanty festival over a weekend in October. Through concerts, sing-rounds, pub sessions, talks and workshops, the history and heritage of Harwich as part of the British seafaring nation was celebrated, promoted and perpetuated by local people and groups. That was unique for the county of Essex and was attracting audiences countrywide and beyond.

The Licensing Manager went on to state that, by assisting the cinema in providing the classification service at a cost neutral fee, the Council through its Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee was helping to promote and support the town, the District, the local tourist and leisure industries, and the work of local independent filmmakers.

In addition, The Electric Palace, Harwich was a special venue locally and provided for a diverse range of film and entertainment that was not always catered for by mainstream venues and which attracted and brought visitors into Harwich as a result. The theatre was therefore always an important destination and venue for Tendring's tourist and leisure industry.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:-	APPLICANT'S ANSWERS:-
<i>Is there anything you would like to speak to the Sub-Committee on?</i>	<i>I have seen the film as much as everyone else has seen it, so I am coming from a viewer's perspective. I think it is a really nice film. It has historical interest, regional interest and I think it is exactly the kind of film that falls between the cracks within the licensing, which is why we have come to you today to ask to be able to screen it. I think partnering with Harwich International Shanty Festival and showing it at The Electric Palace, Harwich gives it the best chance of it being viewed and it will make us put a lot of hard work into putting it together, so we are really keen for it to reach an audience and that is why I am here today to ask you to grant licensing.</i>

The Chairman (Councillor J Henderson) adjourned the meeting at this time whilst the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate. The Head of Legal Services (Linda Trembath), Litigation Lawyer (Sarah Opene) and the Committee Services Officer (Bethany Jones) retired with the Sub-Committee in case they were asked to assist Members in those deliberations.

Upon resuming the meeting, the Sub-Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that the film should be classified as Universal (U) in accordance with BBFC guidelines.

The meeting was declared closed at 11.10 am

Chairman

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