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General Purposes Sub-Committee

11 December 2017

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE,  
HELD ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017 AT 10.00 AM  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, THORPE ROAD, WEELEY**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors V E Guglielmi (Chairman), Cossens (Vice-Chairman), J Henderson, White and Winfield
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Linda Trembath (Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Governance)), Karen Townshend (Licensing Manager), Emma King (Licensing Officer), Katie Sullivan (Committee Services Officer) and Charlotte Tibbles (Licensing Apprentice)

**12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M J Skeels (with no substitute).

Councillors M Brown and Massey were absent.

The Sub-Committee requested that, due to the fact that Councillor Massey had not attended any of the General Purposes Sub-Committee meetings for some time, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock OBE) appoint another Councillor to sit on the Sub-Committee in Councillor Massey's place.

The Council's Licensing Officer (Emma King) introduced the Council's new Licensing Manager (Karen Townshend) to the Sub-Committee.

**13. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, held on 5 June 2017, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**15. REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONAL SERVICES) - A.1 - HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES**

The Sub-Committee noted the contents of a report (A.1) on the number of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers, vehicles and operators, licensed by the Council as at 27 November 2017, which was submitted for information only.

**16. REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONAL SERVICES) - A.2 - APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF PERMISSION TO SHOW AN UNCLASSIFIED FILM**

The Sub-Committee had before it a report (A.2), which advised it of an application for the grant of permission to show an unclassified film at the Harwich Electric Palace Theatre.

The applicant (Mr Chris Brindle) was not in attendance for this item due to other prior booked commitments but he had confirmed to the Licensing section that he gave his consent for the Sub-Committee to consider the application in his absence.

The Licensing Officer informed Members that the applicant, Mr Brindle, who was an independent film maker, had requested permission to show an independently made film and documentary at the Harwich Electric Palace Theatre in 2018 under a project known as 'Jane Austen's Sanditon, Documentary and Film-of-the-Play' to coincide when the Fluidity Films/Goldcrest version was released, but which had not been classified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

It was reported that Mr Brindle wanted to show a film that was essentially a solution to the problem of "how should Jane Austen's last novel have ended".

The Licensing Officer reminded Members that ordinarily films for cinema or other general or limited release/showing were classified by the BBFC. The BBFC would classify a film into a suitable age category for viewing which would depend on the content of the film.

Members were informed that Local Authorities did have the discretion to amend a classification made by the BBFC or grant a classification to an unclassified film if requested to do so. It was rare that this happened and the vast majority of films were classified by the BBFC. Occasionally there were times when films were to be shown at an arts festival for example, or for a very limited release/showing individuals would apply to the relevant Local Authority to classify the film, rather than the BBFC. Local Authorities could classify a film by virtue of Section 20 of the Licensing Act 2003, or in accordance with Home Office Circular 98/1982.

It was reported that Mr Brindle had not requested the film to be classified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) as the cost would have made the project impossible. To classify films for theatrical showing with the BBFC would have cost, it was estimated, more than £1,000.

The Licensing Officer informed Members that the BBFC did offer what was known as 'Watch and Rate' classifications for charities at a much lower rate than solely commercial organisations, but it was not clear whether this reduced rate would apply on this occasion.

Members were informed that as the film which Mr Brindle wished to screen did not have the benefit of a certificate, the consent of the Council was required before the film could be shown as stated in the Cinemas Act 1985.

Members were further informed that should they be minded to grant consent for the film, then they should suggest a suitable classification. To assist Members, the BBFC Guidelines were attached as Appendix A to the report.

It had been recommended that the Sub-Committee should first view the film prior to the meeting in order to establish whether there were any valid reasons not to permit it to be shown and to assist them should they wish to impose any terms and conditions if permission was granted to show the film.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councillor J Henderson, seconded by Councillor Cossens and **RESOLVED** that approval be given to show the film at the Harwich Electric Theatre with the film classification category U (Universal).

**17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business to be considered below on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (a) Exempt Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 5 June 2017;
- (b) Report of the Corporate Director (Operational Services) - B.1 - Applications for the Renewal of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers' Licences; and
- (c) Report of the Corporate Director (Operational Services) - B.2 – Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

**18. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Exempt Minutes of the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, held on 5 June 2017, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**19. REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONAL SERVICES) – B.1 – APPLICATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES**

The Sub-Committee considered applications for the renewal of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers' Licences. The Sub-Committee's resolutions are detailed in the exempt minutes of this meeting.

**20. REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONAL SERVICES) – B.2 – APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Sub-Committee reviewed a named individual's application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence. The Sub-Committee's resolutions are detailed in the exempt minutes of this meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 11.02 am

**Chairman**

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