

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committee (Hearing)**  
**held at 10.00 am on Monday, 15 November 2021**

Present:

Members: Councillor C Thomas (Chair)  
Councillor J Birdi  
Councillor R Thay

Employees Present:

D Cahalin-Heath, Streetscene and Regulatory Services  
R Masih, Streetscene and Regulatory Services  
U Patel, Law and Governance  
C Sinclair, Law and Governance  
A Wright, Law and Governance

In Attendance:

For Review Applicant

Michael Goucher, Operational Lawyer, West Midlands Police  
Philip Horton, West Midlands Police  
Lesley Mead, West Midlands Police  
Lee Hammerton, West Midlands Police

For Licence Holder

Duncan Craig of Counsel  
Darren Lee, Designated Premises Supervisor and Director of  
The Oak Inn (Coventry) Ltd

For Marston's Plc

Michelle Hazelwood, Partner at John Gaunt Solicitors  
Paul Gill, Regional Operations Manager for Marston's Plc

For Public Health

Nadia Inglis, Public Health Consultant  
Katherine Sarginson, Principal Environmental Health Officer

**Public Business**

11. **Appointment of Chair**

**RESOLVED that Councillor C Thomas be appointed Chair for the hearing.**

12. **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

14. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** that, the Sub-Committee agrees to exclude the press and public under Sections 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the private report in Minute 4 below headed “Licensing Act 2003 - Application for Review of a Premises Licence” as the matter relates to information required to be kept private in accordance with Paragraph 7, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended. The grounds for privacy are that the matter may relate to any action taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. The public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

15. **Licensing Act 2003 - Application for the Review of a Premises Licence**

The Sub-Committee considered an application to review the Premises Licence in respect of the Oak Inn, 119 Gosford Street, Coventry (“The Oak Inn” which was received on 27 September 2021. The application, submitted by West Midlands Police, requested the removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and a suspension of the Premises Licence for up to three months following an alleged serious sexual assault that took place at the premises on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

West Midlands Police submitted that the Licensing Objectives of Protection of Public Safety and Prevention of Crime and Disorder had been undermined. Two representations were received during the review application process. One representation was received from John Gaunt Solicitors on behalf of Marston’s Plc, and the other had been received from Public Health in support of the review application on the grounds that the Licensing Objectives of the Protection of Public Safety and the Prevention of Public Nuisance had been undermined, owing to the level of intervention required to contain a COVID-19 outbreak amongst staff at the premises during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2021.

The Sub-Committee’s statutory duty was to consider the application and any representations and to take such steps as contained in the Licensing Act 2003 as considered appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

Further to an application submitted by West Midlands Police, which received support from all interested parties to the hearing, the Sub-Committee considered whether to exclude the press and public from the hearing as the matter related to information required to be kept private in accordance with Paragraph 7, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

The grounds for privacy were that the matter may relate to any action taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**RESOLVED** that the Sub-Committee having considered the report and the representations made at the meeting, revoked the Premises Licence in respect of The Oak Inn, 119 Gosford Street, Coventry.

16. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 3.40 pm)