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| **THE FIFE COUNCIL - JOINT MEETING OF** **FIFE LICENSING BOARD AND FIFE LICENSING FORUM - REMOTE** |
| **26 November, 2020** | **2.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.** |
| **PRESENT:**  | Representing Fife Licensing BoardCouncillors Carol Lindsay (Convener), Alistair Cameron, John Docherty, Garry Haldane, Andy Heer, Donald Lothian and Ryan Smart.Representing Fife Licensing ForumJeff Ellis (Convener), John Barclay, Jim Bett, Gordon Hood (Police Scotland), Fiona Rattray and Paul Smith. |
| **ATTENDING:** | Rebecca Shovlin, Policy Officer, Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership; June Barrie, Legal Services Manager (Depute Clerk to Fife Licensing Board), Kimberley Langley, Solicitor, Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services. |
| **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** | Fife Licensing BoardCouncillor Gavin Ellis.Fife Licensing ForumDavid Henderson, Douglas Hardaker (LSO’s), Izzy Corbin, Clare Campbell (NHS Fife). |

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| **14.** | **Welcome and Introductions** |
|  | Councillor Carol Lindsay, Convener of Fife Licensing Board, welcomed members of both the Fife Licensing Board and Fife Licensing Forum to the meeting. |
| **15.** | **Minute of Joint Meeting of Fife Licensing Forum/Fife Licensing Board of 25 April 2019** |
|  | Members considered the minute of the previous joint meeting held on 25 April 2019.  |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The minute of the Joint Meeting of the Fife Licensing Board and Fife Licensing Forum held on 25th April 2019 was noted. |
| **16.** | **Minute of Meeting of Fife Licensing Forum of 14 November 2019** |
|  | Members of the Fife Licensing Forum considered the minute of meeting held on 14 November 2019. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Forum noted the minute of meeting held on 14 November 2019. |
| **17.** | **Fife Licensing Board Annual Functions and Financial Statement** |
|  | Members considered the Fife Licensing Board Annual Functions Report 2019-2020 and financial statement for the same period. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | Members noted:-1. the information in the reports; and
2. that income was down slightly at the end of the period due to the effects of the COVID pandemic.
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| **18.** | **Impact on Licensed Trade of Coronavirus Pandemic** |
|  | Members discussed the impact of the COVID pandemic on the licensed trade and hospitality sector. Paul Smith advised of a letter which had been issued by the Glasgow Licensing Forum to the Scottish Government expressing concern at the impact of COVID restrictions on hospitality, events and licensed trade sectors, specifically the 10 p.m. curfew and a ban on the playing of music, and requesting a meeting to discuss the issues and work with the Government on a way forward for recovery. Paul also referred to results set out in a report on field studies carried out by acoustic consultants which indicated that well-managed background music could be safely reintroduced to hospitality settings without significantly increasing the risks related to increased vocal effort or breaching physical distancing requirements. It was suggested that a similar letter to that from the Glasgow Licensing Forum be issued from Fife. June Barrie advised that any letter could only be sent on behalf of the Forum and not the Licensing Board as the restrictions had been made under public health legislation and not licensing regulations.  |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | It was agreed that the letter from Glasgow Licensing Forum and the acoustic report from KSG Acoustics be circulated to members for their comments on whether a letter should be sent from the Fife Licensing Forum to the Scottish Government, expressing similar concerns.  |
| **19.** | **DateS of FUTURE Meetings** |
|  | It was agreed that dates be set for 2021 following the usual pattern and circulated to members. |
| **20.** | **Any other competent business** |
|  | There being no other competent business raised, the Convener, thanked everyone for their attendance. |

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