

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2026 at 10.15 am

Present: Cllr A Chapmanlaw and Cllr G Farquhar

128. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Farquhar be elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the duration of the meeting.

Voting: Unanimous

129. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Filer. Councillor Bartlett, as first reserve, stepped up to sit on the Sub-Committee.

130. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Bartlett made a declaration of interest in that he personally knew Mr Stephen Prior, Director of the applicant company in respect of agenda item 6. Councillor Bartlett stood down and Councillor Harman, as second reserve, stepped up to take his place.

131. Protocol for Public Speaking at Licensing Hearings

The protocol for public speaking was noted.

132. The Dancing Jug, 15-17 Poole Hill, Bournemouth

The Chair advised that this application had been withdrawn, and a hearing was no longer required.

133. Lazyjacks Bar and Restaurant Boatyard Cafe, 30-32 Panorama Road, Poole, BH13 7RD

Present:

From BCP Council:
Nananka Randle – Licensing and Trading Standards Manager
Tania Jardim – Licensing Officer
Linda Cole – Legal Advisor to the Sub-Committee
Michelle Cutler – Clerk to the Sub-Committee

Christiane Tan – Democratic Services, observing for training purposes

The Chair made introductions and explained the procedure for the hearing which was agreed by all parties.

The Principal Licensing Officer presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated and a copy of which appears as Appendix A to these minutes in the Minute Book.

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider an application made by Bournemouth Holding Co Limited for a premises licence at 30-32 Panorama Road, Poole. The application sought to permit the supply of alcohol (on and off sales) from 07:00 to 23:00 every day of the week as well as non-standard timing on New Year's Eve.

In response to the application, representations had been received from five local residents on the grounds that granting the licence would undermine the prevention of public nuisance licensing objective.

The premises currently held a premises licence, BH182896, that permitted the same activities at the same times as requested in the new application. The reason for the new application was a change in the location of the licensable area within the premises. Rather than varying the existing licence, the operators had applied for a new licence to update the layout plan.

Following publication of the Officer's report, further documentation was provided on behalf of one of the objectors and the applicant, a copy of which are appended to these minutes in the Minute Book.

The following persons attended the hearing and addressed the Sub-Committee to expand on the points made in written submissions:

- Mr Philip Day, Solicitor, on behalf of the applicant
- Mr Merle Crampton, proposed Designated Premises Supervisor
- Mr Steven Prior, Director of applicant company
- Mr Bill Soper, local resident, objecting
- Mr Robert Webb, representing Ms Natasha Lewis, objecting

The Sub-Committee asked various questions of all parties present and were grateful for the responses received. All parties had the opportunity to ask questions. All parties were invited to sum up before the Sub-Committee retired to make its decision. Before concluding the hearing, the Legal Advisor advised all parties of the right of appeal.

RESOLVED that the application dated 9 December 2025 for a new premises licence for the premises known as 'Lazyjacks Bar and Restaurant Boatyard Café', 30-32 Panorama Road, Poole, BH13 7RD to permit the supply of alcohol (on and off sales) from 07:00 to 23:00 every day of the week and from 07:00 on New Years Eve to 02:00 on 1

January be **GRANTED**, subject to the additional condition offered by the Applicant's Representative during the Hearing, as amended by the Sub-Committee,

- **No waste, including glass bottles, shall be removed from the premises, placed outside, or moved if already outside between the hours of 22:00 and 07:00.**

And the following additional condition imposed by the Sub-Committee:

- **A contact telephone number for the Designated Premises Supervisor, or a duty manager when the DPS is not on site, shall be prominently displayed at the entrance to the premises.**

In addition to all of the conditions offered by the Applicant in Paragraph M of the Operating Schedule.

Reasons for Decision:

The Sub-Committee gave detailed consideration to all of the information which had been submitted before the Hearing, as contained in the Licensing Officer's report and all of the supplementary papers for Agenda Item 6, including the information provided by the applicant in their application and the written representations made from 5 other persons in objection to the application on the grounds that to grant the premises licence would undermine the licensing objective of the prevention of public nuisance.

The Sub-Committee also considered the verbal submissions made at the Hearing by those in attendance, Mrs Tania Jardim, Licensing Officer, Mr Philip Day, Solicitor representing the Applicant, Mr Merle Crampton, proposed Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS), Mr Steven Prior, Director of the applicant company, Mr Bill Soper, local resident, objecting and Mr Robert Webb, representing Ms Natasha Lewis, objecting.

Mr Day explained that the reason for the new application was a change in the location of the licensable area within the premises. Rather than varying the existing licence, the operators had applied for a new licence to update the layout plan. The operation was to remain as a café restaurant. The Sub-Committee noted the new application did not look to extend the current licensable hours at the premises and that the supply of alcohol would still cease at 11pm and there was no application for regulated entertainment.

The Sub-Committee noted that some concerns raised such as planning issues, traffic and parking were outside what the sub-committee could take into consideration when making their decision and that they could only consider evidence pointing to the premises undermining the prevention of public nuisance licensing objective.

Mr Bill Soper, objecting, pointed out that the information included on the application form was not accurate and was misleading. He was also concerned that the application was invalid as the application had not been properly advertised. The Sub-Committee were satisfied that it was a valid application, that the appropriate fee had been paid and that there was no conclusive evidence that notices had been removed from the premises. They considered the purpose of the notices and that was to make residents aware of the application and 5 representations had been received. The

Licensing Officer also advised that 2 late representations were made outside the consultation period and not accepted, but on review did not raise any new points not already covered in the 5 valid representations that were before the Sub-Committee to be considered.

The Sub-Committee heard from Mr Soper regarding noise particularly after the premises close, caused by cleaners removing rubbish and glass bottles from the premises, which caused a disturbance. The Sub-Committee welcomed the offer made by the applicant's representative during the hearing, that no waste, including glass bottles, shall be removed from the premises and put outside, or moved if already outside between the hours of 11:00pm and 7:00am, however, they felt that waste and glass bottles should not be moved after 22:00pm, to ensure that local residents were not disturbed later in the evening.

The Sub-Committee heard from Mr Robert Webb, on behalf of Ms Natasha Lewis that Sandbanks was a quiet residential area that welcomed the existing premises, however he was concerned about planning creep. He advised residents did not want a larger licensed premises and had concerns that if the first-floor area of the premises was licenced, it was a significant expansion of the operation which could become a nuisance in the future and cause problems.

When asked about the operation and current capacity in the café restaurant, the premises confirmed that they provide approximately 44 covers both inside and outside and think when the restaurant is moved upstairs there may be approximately 40 covers. They were asked about resident complaints and confirmed they had not received any, but the telephone number was very accessible on the website and on menus and would act accordingly if complaints were received.

The premises were asked about a dispersal policy and advised customers gradually leave premises as they finish and last orders were called at 10.30pm to ensure they can close at 11pm. A notice asking customers to leave quietly and respect the neighbours is erected. Premises close earlier on some nights and will close if very few customers remain onsite. They described having approximately 5/6 functions during 2025 with approximately 75 guests, charity functions and celebration bookings made by local residents but they are and plan to remain a food led restaurant.

Mr Soper and Mr Webb advised the Sub-Committee that they had no issues with the premises since the new operators took over in January 2024. The Sub-Committee noted that there was no evidence of any recent public nuisance occurring at the premises. They noted a noise complaint made in 2023, whilst the premises was under different management and a second noise complaint was made to Environment Health in 2025, where no further action was taken as the complainant did not provide any further information.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the concerns raised in the representations and during the hearing that the granting of the licence could potentially lead to an increase in public nuisance, however, the Sub-Committee is limited to considering only the evidence before it and determined there was no such evidence.

The Sub-Committee noted that no Responsible Authorities had made an objection to the application and was satisfied that the conditions proposed

by the applicant within the application would help to promote the four licensing objectives.

In conclusion, the Sub-Committee was satisfied that, provided the premises operate in accordance with the conditions on its licence, the licensing objectives should not be undermined, and the application was accordingly granted.

It was noted however that a review of the premises licence may be sought at any time by a Responsible Authority or any other person should future issues arise that may undermine the licensing objectives.

In reaching this decision, the Sub-Committee had regard to the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Licensing Policy, the Secretary of State's revised guidance, and the licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003. All parties have the right to appeal this decision to the Dorset Magistrates' Court within 21 days of receiving written notification from the Licensing Authority.

134. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

135. Taxi Driver

This item was restricted by virtue of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Exempt information – Categories 1 (information relating to any individual) and 2 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

Present:

From BCP Council:

Michelle Fletcher – Licensing Officer

Linda Cole – Legal Advisor to the Sub-Committee

Michelle Cutler – Clerk to the Sub-Committee

Christiane Tan – Democratic Services, observing for training purposes

The applicant driver was in attendance.

The Chair made introductions and explained the procedure to be followed in considering this item, which was agreed by all parties present.

The Licensing Officer presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider whether the applicant was deemed to be a ‘fit and proper’ person to allow them to continue with their application for a new Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers licence for BCP Council.

The Sub-Committee asked various questions of all parties present and was grateful for the responses received.

All parties were invited to sum up before the Sub-Committee retired to make its decision. Before concluding the hearing, the Council’s Legal Advisor advised all parties of the right of appeal.

It was RESOLVED that the applicant driver, is a ‘fit and proper person’ to continue with the application process to become the holder of a Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire driver licence

Reason for Decision:

The Sub-Committee considered all the information which had been submitted before the Hearing and contained in the report for Agenda Item 8, along with the verbal submissions made at the Hearing by the applicant driver, and Michelle Fletcher, Licensing Officer.

The Sub-Committee noted that the applicant driver had previously held a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence, which had been revoked following disclosure from Dorset Police that the applicant driver had been arrested for the alleged sexual assault of a passenger in his vehicle. The applicant driver was released under investigation with no conditions attached. The applicant driver was never charged in respect of this incident and received a letter from Dorset Police advising that *no further action was to be taken at this time due to insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction, however, the case would be kept under review since further evidence may become available in the future, and as a result a decision to charge may be made.*

The applicant driver submitted a clear enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check with his application to the Licensing Authority in September 2025. Upon receipt of this, the Licensing Authority sent a request to Dorset Police’s intelligence unit (FIB) for any relevant information they may hold, that may assist in the Licensing Authority’s assessment of whether the applicant driver was a ‘fit and proper’ person however, Dorset Police had not yet responded.

The applicant driver explained to the Sub-Committee that he was a family man and that apart from the aforementioned incident, had never been in a Police station and had no other complaints made against him. He advised that he worked for various charities in a position of trust and would like to be a taxi driver again so that he had more flexibility over his working hours and could better support his family.

The applicant driver advised he had worked as a delivery driver since last licensed, he handled cash and card payments and liked to provide a good service. He advised he was a calm good driver with no driving convictions or complaints.

The Sub-Committee asked the applicant driver if he usually let passengers sit in the front seat and he replied he had let them sit where they like. When asked if he would do anything differently now, he replied he had learnt from his mistakes, and he would ensure female passengers sat in the back of the vehicle and he would call the Police in the event of a bad situation occurring.

The applicant driver advised that he would be a good taxi driver as he liked providing a service to people and helping people and he would be proud to work for BCP Council as a taxi driver as it's a responsible job.

The Sub-Committee noted the character references provided and that they were not aware of any other concerns occurring since the allegations made.

In considering the circumstances of the case the Sub-Committee reminded themselves that the overriding aim of the licensing system is to protect the public who use Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Services, and any bar set when making any determination should be at the highest level.

In considering the test of a 'fit and proper person', the Sub-Committee had regard to Chapter 8 of BCP Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Policy 2026 - 2031, the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Institute of Licensing (IOL) Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the Hackney and Private Hire Industry (2024) and the guidance within the Department of Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards (updated November 2022).

The Sub-Committee were satisfied that the applicant driver is a 'fit and proper person' to hold a Public Carriage Licence and should be allowed to continue with his application to become a licenced driver. If granted a licence, the applicant driver must be fully aware and comply with all conditions of the BCP Council Driver Policy and promptly notify the Licensing Authority of any arrest, caution, or conviction for any offence or driving matter, whether arising in his professional capacity as a licensed driver or in his personal life.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

CHAIRMAN