

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor Y. Tennant (Chair)

Councillors:

*D. Gallear
D. Hartley
D. Lord
M. Stone
M. Waddington*

Officers in attendance:

<i>W. Iqbal</i>	<i>Licensing Officer</i>
<i>E. Barker</i>	<i>Legal Services Manager</i>
<i>L. Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

Also present:

R. Lonsdale Licensing Administration Officer

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Ashraf and M. Hanif.)

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4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**6. APPLICATION TO SPECIFY A DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR (DPS)
ON A PREMISES LICENCE: WHITE BEAR INN, BARROWFORD**

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report for Members to consider an application to specify a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) on the Premises Licence, for the premises at the White Bear Inn, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, BB9 6EP. The application had been made by Ms Amy Coplen on behalf of herself and joint Premises Licence holder, Mr Carl Johnson, under the Licensing Act 2003.

Representations had been made by Lancashire Police under the licensing objective 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder'.

The Members and all relevant parties had received a copy of the report which included a copy of the application and the representations received.

After receiving notification that Mr Carl Johnson, the Premises Licence holder, had been delayed, the start of the meeting was postponed by 15 minutes. After a further 15 minutes, Mr Carl Johnson arrived at the meeting and was in attendance for the remainder.

Arrangements had been made for Ms Amy Coplen to participate on MS Teams, but she failed to join the meeting. With the permission of the Committee, Mr Johnson attempted to contact Ms Coplen but was unsuccessful.

The hearing was also attended by PS541 Stephen Dundon of Lancashire Constabulary.

RESOLVED

That, having listened to and considered the representations made with regard to the application to specify Ms Amy Coplen as the Designated Premises Supervisor on the Premises Licence in respect of the White Bear Inn, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, made under the Licensing Act 2003, the application be refused.

REASON

- (a) On 24th July 2026, an application was received to specify Amy Coplen as the DPS of the White Bear Inn, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.***
- (b) On 30th July 2026, representations were received from Lancashire Constabulary objecting to the application.***
- (c) The objection was set out in full in the representation form submitted by Sgt Stephen Dundon on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police and the Police submitted that the exceptional circumstances of the case as set out in the representation were such that granting the application would undermine the crime prevention objective.***
- (d) Ms Coplen had not demonstrated with any confidence that she would have sufficient control of the premises, having a business down south and also being the Premises Licence holder and DPS for another local premises.***

The government guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 dated February 2026 “the Guidance” and the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy (“The Policy”) have been considered in accordance with the licensing authority’s duty under section 4(3) of the Act.

Paragraph 42.1 of the Council’s Policy states that when considering a review request or the possibility of enforcement action we will take into account all relevant circumstances but will view the following matters particularly seriously:

- use of the premises for criminal activities such as the supply of drugs or money laundering***
- failure to engage with the Responsible Authorities in an effective manner***

Paragraph 4.70 of the s182 Guidance states that “where the police do object, the licensing authority must arrange for a hearing at which the issue can be considered and both parties

can put forward their arguments. The 2003 Act provides that the applicant may apply for the individual to take up post as DPS immediately and, in such cases, the issue would be whether the individual should be removed from this post. The licensing authority considering the matter must restrict its consideration to the issue of crime and disorder”.

In this case, Ms Coplen did take up the post of DPS with immediate effect on application and the decision of the Committee was whether she should be removed from this post.

In paragraphs 29.1 and 29.2 of the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy, it states that the Act does not require the presence of the DPS at all material times but that the DPS will be readily identifiable on the premises as a person in a position of authority. No sale or supply of alcohol may be made at a time when no DPS has been specified on the licence. This did occur at the Premises back in July 2026 when Ms Coplen removed herself as the DPS and the Premises continued trading despite warnings to stop. Ms Coplen was the joint Premises Licence holder at this time.

In these circumstances it is considered that the removal of Ms Coplen as the DPS by refusing to grant the application serves to promote the crime prevention objective. The Committee considers that there are exceptional circumstances in the case due to recent management instability, repeated police involvement arising from disputes between the joint Premises Licence holders and suspected breaches of the Licensing Act 2003 occurring when there was no DPS in place.

In reaching its decision, the Committee took into consideration the following factors:

- a. The report presented by Wajed Iqbal for the Council;***
- b. The submissions made on behalf of the Police;***
- c. The submissions made by the Premises Licence Holder, Carl Johnson;***
- d. The provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and the four Licensing objectives;***
- e. The Human Rights Act 1998***
- f. The Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy;***
- g. The guidance issued by the Secretary of State under s182 of the Licensing Act 2003.***

CHAIR _____