

Cherwell District Council

General Licensing Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the General Licensing Committee held at 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD, on 18 February 2026 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Rebecca Biegel (Chair)
Councillor Fiaz Ahmed (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Nick Cotter
Councillor Dr Henry Elugwu
Councillor Lesley McLean
Councillor Robert Parkinson
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor John Willett
Councillor Barry Wood

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Ian Middleton
Councillor Chris Pruden

Officers:

Jan Southgate, Health Protection, Compliance & Licensing Manager
Aaron Hetherington, Principal Officer - Electoral Services Lead
Rebecca Wise, Trainee Solicitor

Officers Attending Virtually:

Denzil Turbervill, Head of Legal Services
Amanda Ward, Licensing Enforcement Officer

10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

11 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business

12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 October 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13 **Chair's Announcements**

There were no Chair's Announcements.

14 **New Cherwell District Council Street Trading Policy**

The Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing Manager submitted a report to seek approval from the General Licensing Committee for the New Street Trading License Policy.

In introducing the report, the Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing Manager outlined the new Cherwell District Council Street Trading Policy for adoption from the 1 April 2026.

In response to the question, the Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing Manager confirmed that the DBS basic check would be introduced in this new policy as a requirement and that this was required for public safety and to allow applicants to be evaluated for suitability to hold a licence.

Resolved

- (1) That the new Cherwell District Council Street Trading Policy be approved for adoption from the 1 April 2026 be approved.

15 **New Cherwell District Council Pavement Licence Policy**

The Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing Manager submitted a report to seek approval the new Pavement Licensing Policy for adoption from the 1 April 2026 to ensure that the Council's policy reflected the current Government guidance be approved.

In introducing the report, The Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing Manager explained that the policy had been developed in response to legislative provisions enabling businesses, particularly hospitality venues to place furniture such as tables and chairs on the highway. The policy aimed to balance support for local economic activity with the need to ensure public safety, accessibility, and amenity.

In the course of the discussion, Committee Members considered the need to strike an appropriate balance between supporting local businesses and safeguarding the public realm. Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on pedestrians and the practicalities of enforcing licence conditions.

Members also highlighted concerns about ensuring sufficient space for wheelchair users and visually impaired pedestrians, as well as avoiding cluttered pavements, and sought assurance that the policy included robust protections for vulnerable users.

In response to a question, the Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing

Manager confirmed that appropriate accessibility standards were incorporated within the policy and advised that enforcement mechanisms were in place to address non-compliance.

The Health Protection, Compliance and Licensing Manager explained that the policy included provision for consultation and flexibility in its application. The Committee was further reassured that the policy was consistent with current legislation and reflects local requirements.

Resolved

- (1) That the new Pavement Licensing Policy be approved for adoption from 1 April 2026

The meeting ended at 6.52 pm

Chair:

Date: