



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
EAST LOTHIAN LICENSING BOARD**

**THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON
& HYBRID MEETING FACILITY**

Board Members Present:

Councillor F Dugdale
Councillor N Gilbert (*r*)
Councillor G McGuire (Convener)
Councillor J McMillan

Clerk of the Licensing Board:

Mr R Thompson, Solicitor

Attending:

Ms E Barclay, Democratic Services Assistant
Ms S Fitzpatrick, Team Leader, Licensing and Landlord Registration
Ms K Harling, Licensing Standards Officer
PC M Upton, Police Scotland (*r*)
Ms C Aitken, Licensing Officer

Committee Clerk:

Ms L Gillie

Apologies:

Councillor C Cassini
Councillor L Bruce

Declarations of Interest:

None

The committee clerk advised that the meeting was being held as a hybrid meeting; that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed; and that it would be made available via the Council's website as a webcast, in order to allow public access to the democratic process in East Lothian. She noted that the East Lothian Licensing Board was the data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018; that data collected as part of the recording would be retained in accordance with the Council's policy on record retention; and that the webcast of the meeting would be publicly available for five years from the date of the meeting.

The committee clerk recorded the attendance of Board members by roll call.

(*r*) remote participants

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL
East Lothian Licensing Board, 27 November 2025

Board members approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

2a. MAJOR VARIATION
Day Today, 84 High Street, Haddington, EH41 3ET

Gordon Emslie, GNE Consultancy, attended and began by advising that the shop is due to undergo refurbishment which would change the location of the alcohol display area and include a beer cave. The application also corrects the calculation of capacity for displaying alcohol, this being previously calculated in 2009. Mr Emslie added that these changes would enable his client to provide a better service to customers and to provide a wider range of products. He concluded by stating that this was a good example of a retailer investing in their business.

The LSO advised the works were likely to take place in April 2026. One area for alcohol display on the layout plan was highlighted by the LSO with her questioning if it met premises licence condition 13. She stated she felt that this did not form one area.

Police Scotland confirmed that they had no objections and no comment to make.

In response to questions from Councillor McMillan Mr Emslie stated the area to the left of the counter on the layout plan was for specialist wines and that it did feel like an anomaly. He added that if this area was a contentious issue they could look at moving this area while still maintaining the capacity, and that they were happy to work with the LSO on this. The LSO confirmed that she would be happy to work with the applicant to find a suitable alternative location.

In response to a query from Councillor McMillan about delegated authority Richard Thompson, Clerk of the licensing Board, advised that the Board may delegate generally or specifically and that this would avoid the need for a further application.

Councillor McMillan proposed authority be delegated, this was seconded by the Convener.

Members commented on being reassured about the knowledge within and expansion of the business and that it had gained respect for how it has worked within the community.

Decision

The Board unanimously agreed to grant the Major Variation subject to the following proposal:

- The area on the layout plan identified as being for specialist wines is relocated elsewhere in the store.
- The applicant / agent will work with the LSO to identify a suitable new location.

2b. MAJOR VARIATION
Longniddry Inn, Main Street, Longniddry, EH32 ONF

Niall Hazzard, Flint Bishop solicitors, and Renee Sarbach, the applicant, attended. Mr Hazzard began by advising that when his client had taken on the premises in the summer of last year theatre was not an activity that was considered. They have now been approached about the possibility of a performance within the premises, and they are keen to open up the premises to as wide a section of the community as possible.

The LSO advised that she had visited the premises in relation to the application and described the premises as well run and having no complaints.

Police Scotland confirmed that they had no objections and no comment to make.

In response to a question from Councillor McMillan Mr Hazzard replied that it is a family friendly premises and that during rehearsals it is more likely tea and coffee would be served. During performances challenge 25 would be in force.

Members commented that they would be happy to support the application.

Decision

Members voted unanimously to approve the Major Variation application.

3. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Team Leader, Licensing and Landlord Registration advised that members were being asked to adopt the Scheme of Delegation and approve the slightly amended procedures for applications and meeting.

Members commented that they welcomed the paper and stated that it made sense in terms of governance and Standing Orders. It was also noted that it clarifies for the public what they can expect and enhances the power of the Board in working with those who require a licence.

Decision

Members voted unanimously in favour of the Scheme of Delegation and amended procedures.

Signed


Councillor G McGuire
Convener of East Lothian Licensing Board

