

VIDEO & GALLERY Councillors postpone licence review so pub landlord must wait to learn his fate



[\[polopoly_fs/1602sm114_1_3211709!image/4285738244.jpg_gen/derivatives](#)

[/landscape_630/4285738244.jpg\]](#) Nigel Marsh facing the committee.

John Elworthy, Editor - reporting from Fenland Hall [\[mailto:john.elworthy@archant.co.uk\]](mailto:john.elworthy@archant.co.uk) Thursday, January 16, 2014 3:44 PM

A decision on what action – if any- to be taken against a Fenland publican after a councillor called for a review of his licence has been postponed.

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Georges CCTV

Watch the video and tell us if you think Nigel Marsh

Handled it properly 73 %

Handled it wrongly 6 %

Should have called police immediately 21 %

Fenland Council licensing committee decided today to adjourn a review hearing following protests by publican Nigel Marsh that some case papers had been submitted too late for him to respond.

Kit Owen, the councillor who called for the review into the licence for Georges in March High Street, argued that Mr Marsh had been given sufficient time but the committee felt

a delay was reasonable.

The hearing will now take place on February 12 after committee chairman Kay Mayor announced that the extra time would enable Mr Marsh "to obtain legal advice because of CCTV evidence". She added that it would be "beneficial to all parties to consider this information".

The latest footage of an alleged incident outside of Georges, from last Saturday, has been obtained by this newspaper and Mr Marsh is insistent it simply shows him "doing my job properly".



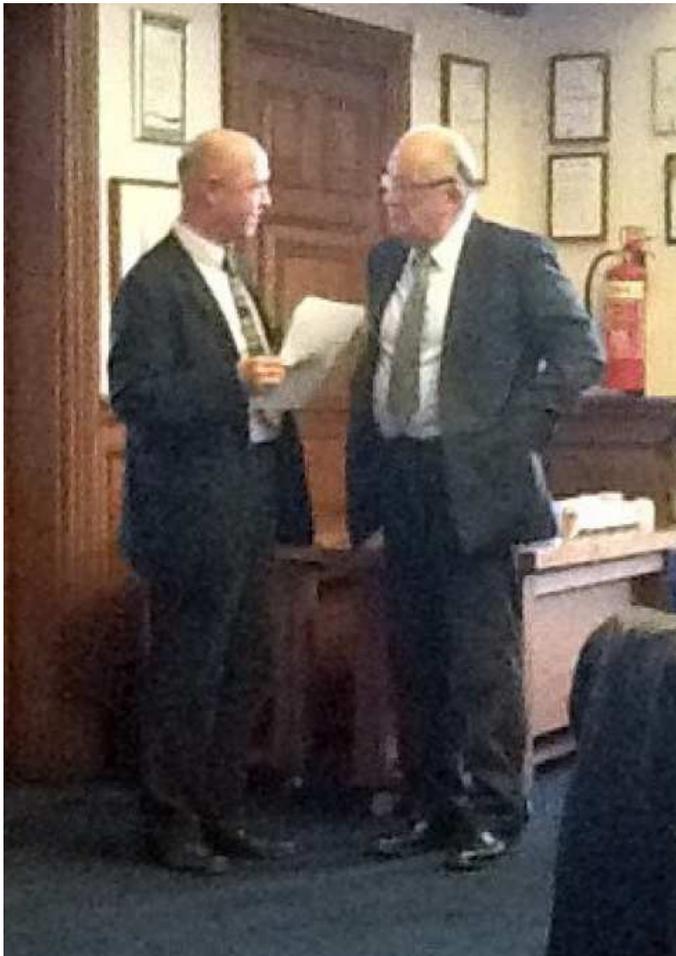
The licensing committee.

Mr Marsh says the eight minute film shows "licensing enforcement is completely out of touch with what is and what is not an incident. I have been told by a former publican who studied it that my handling of the 'incident' ought to be standard text book training for any would be landlord."

He explained that CCTV had picked up on a 23 year-old man who met his mother at Georges after not having seen her for 13 years.

"There were heated voices and he was calling her certain words," said Mr Marsh. "The man had bumped into her whilst he was in town; I was there, moved it along, and spoke to family members. These sorts of things happen. The police were not called but later I did report it to police in case they needed to move them on at a later date."

He said: "I wouldn't call it an incident."



Cllr Kit Owen, right, is at the meeting.

Mr Marsh said he had now asked Fenland Council to advise him of their protocol in using footage "without input from the police, the pub landlord, fire service or anyone else. In my view the council should not be enforcing based simply on CCTV- they should be asking what happened and the first expert on what happened is the landlord and the second is the police who can investigate."

Mr Marsh has already suspended live music at Georges pending the outcome of the latest review and fears one outcome could be an insistence he uses doormen after 10pm which could cost up to £120 a night. He says such a cost would make running the live music venue impossible.

Chris and Jamie Wilcox who live opposite the pub have kept a detailed log of noise and other alleged incidents at the pub and were at Fenland Hall today to give evidence.

In supporting documentation they claim to have witnessed fights outside Georges and experienced loud music disturbing their sleep.



Nigel Marsh, landlord of Georges.

Other letters to the council have made similar complaints although nearly 500 people have signed letters in support of Mr Marsh and his efforts to keep live music in the town.

Support for Mr Marsh has also been forthcoming from town councillor Stephen Court who described Georges as "a very good example of a community based pub with the landlord's family being very proactive in the way that it is run for the people of March."

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I agree with "mypointofview" incidents like that happen outside most pubs in town and even in residential streets late on Saturday night. All the CCTV footage shows is that there was a disturbance outside the Chinese takeaway. There is no evidence on the video that suggests either party involved had come from Georges and neither party went into Georges afterwards. All the footage demonstrates is how the landlord dealt with something that might have erupted into a 'disturbance' in a professional manner! It seems that for 8 minutes of footage the 'incident' itself lasted for about one!

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georges_supporter

Friday, January 17, 2014

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georges_supporter

Friday, January 17, 2014

In my honest opinion, I feel that the landlord took full control of an isolated incident that the guy walked away from, shortly after the landlord had spoken to him. I fail to see what all the fuss is about and whoever took this cctv footage appears to have a vendetta against either the pub and/or the landlord as the camera is aimed all over the place as if seeking to look for a problem to prove a point, they have failed in proving their point and this goes to show that the landlord acted responsibly ... there's no case to answer to.

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flatdweller

Friday, January 17, 2014

This is cause for concern with FDC Licensing Committee demonstrating that they have no comprehension of what an incident is or the requirements of a Landlord to manage any incident. This is nothing more than one upset young chap, the situation was managed well, and there was no need whatsoever to even consider calling the Police.

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Mo Stewart

Friday, January 17, 2014

I feel very sorry for the young man involved, it is clear that he was very distressed and my heart goes out to him, but it is also that he did not lash out at anyone and walked away from the so called 'disturbance'. More of a concern to me is that passers-by are being spied on, no doubt 'just in case' an incident might occur; there is a much wider debate here on the use or misuse of cctv. To the people who think that this was not correct handling of the 'disturbance' what would you have done, have the young man arrested??? For the crime of tipping over a table??? Oh, but then Nigel knows all about that doesn't he?

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lincslas

Thursday, January 16, 2014

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lincslas

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Is that it? This footage shows that the landlord is behaving correctly, hard to believe anyone submitted this as evidence of any lack of propriety on the landlords behalf.

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Fritz Bosch

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Disturbances like this happen in most pubs in most towns every weekend. Cassanos and the Griffin experience the same, let us see CCTV footage of those incidents. If the CCTV operator hadn't been peering on the 3 girls he wouldn't have swung the camera to Georges anyway! I have witnessed frequent and far worse things elsewhere, and often the management cannot predict what is going to happen and when. At least Mr Marsh was out there personally trying to resolve the problem!

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mypointofview

Thursday, January 16, 2014

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Multimedia



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