

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Wednesday 13th January 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor J Potts (Chair)
Councillors J R Anderson, G Clarkson, K M Greaves, S Isard, D R Pressley,
H M Richards, N J Sanders, J M Sanger MBE and C Tindle.

Officers in attendance: L Dore, J Flynn, E Hinsley, W Nuttall, R Wilson and S Wormald.

(Meeting opened at 6.30pm).

The Chair welcomed all to the virtual Licensing Committee and explained that councils have been enabled to hold virtual meetings in order to allow business to be conducted while maintaining social distancing due to the outbreak of Covid-19. She then introduced Members and Officers by doing a roll call. The Chair also welcomed Councillor Sanders to his first meeting as part of the Licensing Committee. The Chair then outlined that in the event of the livestream failing or Members losing connection the meeting would be adjourned to allow the connection to be re-established. She reminded participants to take appropriate safety precautions from their place of livestreaming.

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T P Eaton and G Jones.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no Declarations of Interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no Declarations of Interest by officers.

53. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2020

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2020 be approved.

54. MINUTES FOR ACTION

In reference to Minute No. 46a, Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy Update. Following the Issue of Statutory Guidance, the Council Solicitor (CS) advised that a consultation was carried out, however no responses were received. The changes have now been implemented as agreed with the Chair of the Licensing Committee.

Minute No. 47a, Request for Permission to Display Advertisements on a Private Hire Vehicle by MP Travel Worksop, has also been implemented.

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and updates be received.

55. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

In reference to Minute No. 31 Street Trading Review, this will be undertaken when the Principle Solicitor (Licensing and Regulatory) returns from maternity leave.

Minute No 49a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence will be addressed at Agenda Item No. 7a.

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List and updates be received.

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

56. REPORT(S) OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR

(a) **Fees and Charges 2021/22**

The Committee was asked to consider the proposed increase to the present level of fees and charges for Licences for the financial year 2021/2022.

In line with Council Policy, the Licensing Committee has the power to set fees and charges for Licences on an annual basis. These should be considered in the context of the Council's Corporate Charging Policy. At its meeting on 1st December 2020, Cabinet approved proposed fees and charges including licensing fees, for 2021/22, however, these were approved only subject to approval of the Licensing Committee in respect of fees and charges for Licences. A list of Licences under the responsibility of the Licensing Committee detailing previous (2019/20), current (2020/21) and proposed (2021/22) fees were appended to the report.

The Committee expressed concerns that businesses have not been able to operate for considerable periods due to national lockdowns and asked about the possibility of refunds or concessions. An elected Member also asked about the enforcement of fishing permits.

The CS advised that these fees will be charged from 1st April 2021 and are for the next year rather than the current year during which many business have not been able to trade for extended periods. Statutory fees are set by the Government and there is no provision to offer refunds or reductions. Non-statutory fees are set at a local level but at present no decision has been made to offer refunds or concessions on licences. The Council has instead, sought to address the financial impact on businesses by distribution of government grants. The CS advised that fishing permits did not fall within the Licensing directorate but he would find out for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. The fees and charges for Licences for 2021/2022 as set out at 'Appendix C' and paragraph 3.10 be approved;
2. The discount on the annual licence fee for "green" hackney carriages and private hire vehicles be approved as set out at paragraphs 3.6 to 3.8. This discount will come in to force from 1 April 2021;
3. The Council Solicitor to find out how fishing permits are to be enforced and to advise the Committee at the next meeting.

57. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and after considering the public interest test as set out by the officer in the body of the report, Members agreed that the following items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and therefore, in accordance with Section 100A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting:

Agenda Item No. 7a – Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver's Licence – Paragraph 1

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

58. REPORT(S) OF THE PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR (LICENSING AND REGULATORY)

(a) **Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver's Licence**

As the applicant was not in attendance the Committee determined that this item be adjourned and the applicant be invited to the next meeting of the Committee. The Applicant to be advised that a decision will be made in their absence, should they fail to attend.

RESOLVED that the agenda item be adjourned and the applicant be invited to the next meeting of the Licensing Committee scheduled for 10th March 2021.

59. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT.

As there was no other urgent business to be discussed, the Chair closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 7:25pm)