

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2007

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS  
2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST 2007 AT  
2.30PM

Present:-

Councillor D Buttle – Chairperson

Councillors

W B Evans  
R M Granville  
C E Hughes

Councillors

R D Jenkins  
M Jones  
G C Lewis

Councillors

M E J Nott  
D Sage  
M L Simmonds  
M C Wilkins

Officers:

Mrs Y Witchell - Licensing and Registration Officer  
Mrs K Watson - Legal Officer  
Mr M A Galvin - Senior Cabinet & Committee Officer  
Mr S Richards - Enforcement Officer

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:-

Councillor D T Greaves - Prior Engagement  
Councillor J J Hipkiss - Recuperating  
Councillor K T Rowlands - Holiday  
Councillor A E Davies - Porthcawl Mayoral commitments

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R D Jenkins - Agenda item 4 (i) and 4(ii) in that his daughter was a taxi driver. Councillor Jenkins left the meeting when these items were being considered.

Councillor C E Hughes - Agenda item 4 (ii) in that Mr P Pride who is mentioned in the report, rents one of his properties. Councillor Hughes left the meeting whilst this item was being considered.

Councillor W B Evans - Agenda item 4 (i) (part) and Agenda item 4 (ii) in that his niece and nephew were taxi drivers. Councillor Evans left the meeting for all remaining business after the fees for Miscellaneous Premises and Miscellaneous Licences and Permits were discussed.

49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 11 May 2007, be approved as a true and accurate record.

50 LICENSING FUNCTIONS: DISCRETIONARY LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to determine the Licensing fees and charges for 2007/08.

In view of interests declared earlier in the meeting, it was agreed to consider the non-taxi related items first.

A table showing the existing fees (2006/07) and those proposed (2007/08) in respect of Miscellaneous Premises, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences, was contained in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Licensing and Registration Officer advised that the increase in fees suggested, were in line with inflation and budgetary requirements, i.e. generally 2.0%, other than those fees that the Council had no direct control over, for example, where we are charged by an external body.

Whilst members accepted the increases in fees recommended, they requested the Licensing and Registration Officer provide a future report into the policy relating to street trading consent fees, .

RESOLVED: That Committee approves the proposed fee increases shown in Appendix 1 to the report, to be effective from 3 September, 2007, with the exception of fees relating to taxi vehicle licences and operator licences, which are subject to Public Notice and will become operative either 28 days following the expiration of the Public Notice, or if objections are received, on a date to be determined by the Licensing Committee following formal consideration of these objections.

51 TAXI LICENSING  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976  
APPLICATIONS TO AMEND THE TABLE OF TAXI FARES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to present two applications to the Committee, to amend the Table of Fares.

The applications were received from the Bridgend County Hackney Association (Application A), Appendix 'A' to the report referred, and from Mr Paul Pride (Application B), Appendix 'B' to the report referred. The Licensing and Registration Officer advised that 80 signatories had supported Mr Pride's proposals

Both applications were accompanied by a table prepared by the Council which showed the impact of the applications on a mile by mile basis..

Appendix 'A' did not recommend a charge for waiting or luggage, whilst Appendix 'B' suggested a waiting time fee of £15.00, and a new charge for the carriage of white goods equating to £5.00.

In response to a question from Member,s he Licensing and Registration Officer advised that other Authorities did not generally charge for white goods but that it was common to charge for items of luggage.

She added that an increase in taxi fares was well founded, as there had been increases in running costs, the details of which were provided in the report.

Certain members, whilst acknowledging that an increase in taxi fares should now be considered, suggested perhaps this should be less than had been requested in the applications, rather than passing additional running costs on to the travelling customer.

Members were also of the opinion that whilst the recommendations regarding fares contained in Mr Pride's application in Appendix 'B' seemed favourable, they were not prepared to implement a new charge of £5.00 for the carriage of "white goods" Without more evidence which would enable the Committee to come to an informed decision.

Following consideration of the report and attachments, it was therefore:

- RESOLVED:
- (1) That the Table of Fares be amended to the recommended changes outlined in Mr Pride's application (i.e. Appendix 'B' to the report refers), with it noted that the changes do not include, as proposed in such application, a new charge of £5.00 for the carriage of white goods.
  - (2) That should no objections be received to the revised Table of Fares, then these fares will come into effect on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the appropriate Public Notice, or the date of withdrawal of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
  - (3) That any objections that are made to the amended Table of Fares be reported to a further meeting of the Licensing Committee and, after considering such objections, the Council should set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, in which the new Table of Fares shall come into force.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.