

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON THURSDAY, 10 JULY 2008 AT 2.00PM

Present:-

Councillor C J James - Chairperson

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
M Butcher	R D Jenkins	K J Watts
D Buttle	D N W Jones	P J White
D K Edwards	W B Morgan	M C Wilkins
C E Hughes	D A Unwin	R Williams

Officers:

Y Witchell	-	Licensing and Registration Officer
L Jones	-	Acting Head of Trading Standards
P Gavigan	-	Principal Solicitor
S Richards	-	Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer
A Rees	-	Senior Cabinet and Committee Officer

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:-

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|------------------------|---|---|
| Councillor C E Hughes | - | Agenda item 4 (2) – Applications to amend the table of taxi fares – due to a tenant of his being one of the applicants. Councillor Hughes left the meeting during consideration of this item. |
| Councillor R D Jenkins | - | Agenda item 4 (2) – Applications to amend the table of taxi fares – due to his daughter being a taxi driver. Councillor Jenkins left the meeting prior to the Committee voting on the item. |

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 29 May 2008, be approved as a true and accurate record.

8 LICENSING FUNCTIONS: DISCRETIONARY LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES

The Licensing and Registration Officer presented the report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services, the purpose of which was to determine the licensing fees and charges for 2008/9. The Committee had the power to determine fees charged in respect of those licensing functions within the purview of the Committee to hear and determine objections relating to proposed fee

revisions. A table showing the current and proposed fees and charges was contained in Appendix 1 of the report.

The increases proposed for 2008/9 were in line with the budget strategy approved by Council. An increase of 5% for licensing fees was approved by Council on 13 February 2008.

Representations have been made to all Local Authorities by the Adult Industry Trade Association that the fees being levied by Local Authorities in general for the grant and renewal of sex shop licences was unreasonable. It was proposed that the current fee structure remain in force and that the Adult Industry Trade Association be advised accordingly.

The Licensing and Registration Officer informed the Committee that a review of street trading consents had been carried out.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approve the proposed fee increases shown in Appendix 1 to the report to be effective from 14 July 2008, with the exception of fees relating to taxi vehicle licences and operator licences which were subject to public notice and would become operative either 28 days following the expirration of the public notice, or, if objections are received, on a date to be determined by the Licensing Committee following formal consideration of the objections.

9 TAXI LICENSING LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 – SECTION 65 APPLICATIONS TO AMEND THE TABLE OF TAXI FARES

The Licensing and Registration Officer presented the report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services, the purpose of which was to present two applications to the Committee to amend the table of fares.

The applications were received from Mr Paul Pride, referred to in Appendix A of the report and from Mr Malcolm Scott referred to in Appendix B of the report. The application by Mr Pride related to the whole structure of the current table of fares, including Christmas and New Year and would impact on all taxi users. Mr Pride also proposed an additional charge for the carriage of extra large items of £5. The application by Mr Scott related to the whole structure of the whole current table of fares, including Christmas and New Year and would also impact on all taxi users. There was no application to change the “extras” tariff.

The basis of both applications was that the earnings of taxi drivers and owners had been affected by the recent increases in the cost of living, particularly fuel increases. It had been hoped to set up a meeting with the wider trade to discuss taxi fares but both applicants felt that in view of the significant price increases in fuel cost in a very short period of time, they requested that the applications be reported to the Committee. Officers had met with both applicants, who had provided additional information on the applications.

The Licensing and Registration Officer reported on the current table of fares, the position of the Council in the National League Table of Fares and comparisons with neighbouring Authorities.

Mr Pride addressed the Committee to clarify the points raised in his application.

Following detailed consideration of the report and appendices, the Committee:

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the table of fares be amended to the recommended changes outlined in Mr Pride's application (Appendix A of the report), summarised by Officer in Appendix E of the report, with the exception of the proposal for an additional charge for the carriage of extra large items of £5, which was deferred for further consideration as part of the Committee's Forward Work Programme.
 - (2) That the times of the tariffs be amended as follows:-
 - (i) Tarrifs 2 and 4 from 8:00pm Saturday to 4:00am Monday
 - (ii) Bank Holiday, Christmas and New Year tariffs to apply until 4:00am on 2 January.
 - (3) That should no objections be received through 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.
 - (4) That any written objections that are made to the amended table of fares be reported to a further meeting of the Licensing Committee for further consideration.
 - (5) That the application by Mr M Scott be not accepted.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm.