

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2012 AT 2.00PM

Present:

Councillor D K Edwards

Councillors

R D L Burns
E M Dodd
C E Hughes

Councillors

R D Jenkins
D A Unwin
C Westwood

Councillors

M C Wilkins
R Williams

Officers:

L Jones - Group Manager - Public Protection
R Lewis - Legal Officer
A Rees - Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

97 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from the following Member:-

Councillor G Thomas - Attending a Tribunal

98 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor R G Jenkins - Agenda Item 4 - Licensing Functions: Discretionary Licence Fees and Charges - Councillor Jenkins declared a prejudicial interest as his daughter and her partner are both Hackney Carriage Drivers and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor C E Hughes - Agenda Item 4 - Licensing Functions: Discretionary Licence Fees and Charges - Councillor Hughes declared a prejudicial interest as the Chairman of the Taxi Association is a tenant of his and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

99 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 13 January 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record.

100 LICENSING FUNCTIONS: DISCRETIONARY LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES

The Group Manager Public Protection presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services the purpose of which was to determine

Licensing Fees and Charges for 2012/13. He explained that the Licensing Committee had the power to determine fees charged in respect of those licensing functions within the purview of the Committee and which were not set by statute. The Committee also had the power to hear and determine objections relating to proposed fee revisions.

He stated that the Council had a policy that where permitted by legislation, the overall level of fees was set to recover the cost of providing the service rather than to make a profit. The majority of the fees relating to the licensing functions were set by statute and the Council had no discretion to vary these fees.

The Group Manager - Public Protection reported that the increases proposed for 2012/13 were in line with the budget strategy approved by Council on the 22 February 2012, with an increase of 4.2% for licensing fees being applied in line with inflation and rounded up as necessary, with the exception of those fees (or parts of fees) charged by third parties or recharged to the department. No changes to the range or scope of existing fees were proposed.

The Committee questioned as to which sports ground certificate fees applied. The Group Manager - Public Protection informed the Committee that the fees applied to a limited number of sports grounds within the County Borough. The Committee also questioned the effect of the development of the sports village on the fees charged by the Council. The Group Manager - Public Protection informed the Committee that the fees charged would be proportionate to the scale of the ground and how the facility was managed.

The Committee questioned the impact on families of the family entertainment centre fees. The Group Manager - Public Protection informed the Committee that the fees applied were below the maximum fees they could charge and the Council was working on a cost recovery basis.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approved the proposed fee increases shown in Appendix 1 of the report, to be effective from the 1 April 2012 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 the objections.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.