

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON TUESDAY,
11 MARCH 2014 AT 10.00AM

Present:

Councillor R Williams - Chairperson

Councillors

G W Davies MBE
P A Davies
E Dodd
P James
P N John

Councillors

D R W Lewis
J Lewis
H E Morgan
D G Owen
E Venables

Officers:

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

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Member for the reason so stated:

Councillor R D Jenkins - Unwell

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

41 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the special meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 19 December 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

42 LICENSING FUNCTIONS: DISCRETIONARY LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES
2014/15

The Group Manager - Public Protection presented a report, the purpose of which was to determine licensing fees and charges for 2014/2015. He explained that the Licensing Committee had the power to determine fees and charges in respect of those licensing functions within the purview of the Committee and to hear and determine objections relating to proposed fee revisions.

The Group Manager - Public Protection reported 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. The majority of fees relating to the licensing functions were set by statute and the Council currently had no discretion to vary these fees. However, a current Home Office Consultation was underway on a proposal to move away from centrally set to locally set fees for the Licensing Act 2003. In addition, guidance issued by the Local Government Association on locally set fees was likely to impact on the ongoing review of fees during 2014/15. The Group Manager - Public Protection also informed the Committee that recent case law involving Cardiff Council and Westminster Council limited the scope of fees which licensing authorities could charge

under the Licensing Act 2003 and in particular enforcement costs. He stated that the case of Westminster Council was subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Group Manager - Public Protection reported that the increases proposed for 2014/15 are in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council on 19 February 2014.

In response to a question from the Committee on the payment of fees for sports ground certificates, the Group Manager Public Protection stated that the fee currently applied only to the Brewery Field, Bridgend, but would also apply to Maesteg RFC's ground once they had completed works to their ground following a fire.

In response to a further question from the Committee in relation to the payment of fees for Street Trading Consent, the Group Manager - Public Protection stated that he would confirm the fees paid for the Sunday market in the multi storey car park.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approved the proposed fee increases, shown in Appendix 1 of the report to be effective from 1 April 2014 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.

43 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4, and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above to consider this item in private, with the public excluded from the meeting, as it was considered that in all the circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, because the information would be prejudicial to the applicant.

Minute No. Summary of Item:

44	Exempt minutes of the Special Meeting of the Licensing Committee of 19 December 2013.
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