

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM 7.00PM TO 7.25PM**

Present:- Barrie Patman (Chairman), Chris Bowring (Vice Chairman), Mike Gore, Pauline Helliar-Symons, Ken Miall, Chris Singleton, Malcolm Storry, Dee Tomlin and Bob Wyatt

*Also present:-
Julia O'Brien – Principal Environmental Health Officer
Anne Hunter, Democratic Services Manager*

PART I

25. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 September 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Kay Gilder and Sam Rahmouni.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

29. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

30. TOURISM AND EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

The Committee received a report required by the Licensing Act 2003, on the needs of the local tourist economy and the employment situation in the area. Under statutory guidance there was a requirement for the Licensing Committee to receive reports on both these items.

Members noted that there was not a substantial tourist industry in the Wokingham Borough and licensing decisions would have little or no effect on the level of tourist activity. With regard to unemployment in the Borough this was generally low and currently stood at 2.0%, which was less than the national average. The leisure industry, and hence licensed premises, made a major contribution to the local employment situation and the main issue for licensees was the difficulty in recruiting staff.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism and Employment report be noted.

31. ADVERTISING ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

At the previous meeting of the Committee it was agreed that advertising should be permitted on Hackney Carriage vehicles and that Wokingham appropriate guidelines and a schedule of fees be drafted by Officers. Members examined the draft advertising criteria and fees structure which was proposing a charge of £50 for initial applications and £35 for a yearly renewal application.

During discussion of the proposals it was put forward that all Council departments should be notified about this change in policy in case they wished to utilise this advertising opportunity and Officers were asked to inform all service areas accordingly. Members raised concern that there could be a potential conflict of interest if Council departments were paying for advertising that the Council was receiving money from. Officers were asked to look into this and see how other Councils managed this potential problem.

The Committee discussed the fees that were proposed and were informed that they were in line with other authorities' charges and Members noted that the Council was permitted to recoup reasonable administrative costs but were not allowed to make a profit. Members felt they wished to evaluate the effect of permitting advertising on Hackney Carriage vehicles and also the fee structure to ensure that it was appropriate and covered the time that Officers spent administering the applications and therefore agreed to review the policy of allowing advertising and the fees in a year's time.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the proposed guidelines and fee structure to allow advertising on Hackney Carriage Vehicles as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed;
- 2) the rewording of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, paragraphs S2.6 .1and S6.1 Advertising to add: 'External and Internal advertising will be permitted on Hackney Carriage vehicles subject to the prior written approval of Wokingham Borough Council and in line with the specified advertising criteria' be agreed; and
- 3) the policy allowing advertising on Hackney Carriage vehicles and the fees charged be reviewed in a years time.

32. HEARINGS UPDATE

The Committee received a sheet setting out the School Transport Appeals, street trading consent hearing and hearings held under the Licensing Act 2003 which had been held since the last meeting of the Committee.

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

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