

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 10 JULY 2013 FROM 7:00PM TO 7.30PM.**

Present:- Barrie Patman (Chairman), Michael Firmager, Mike Haines, Abdul Loyes, Ken Miall, Sam Rahmouni, Malcolm Richards, Sue Smith, Wayne Smith and Dee Tomlin.

Also present:

Julia O'Brien, Principal Environmental Health Officer (Licensing)

Madeleine Shopland, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

PART I

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Chris Bowering, Mike Gore, Philip Houldsworth and Chris Singleton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Public questions.

5. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

6. REVIEW OF LICENSING ACT POLICY

The Committee received a report, as set out on Agenda pages 4 to 28, which set out a draft policy of the revised Licensing Act Policy for consideration which sought approval to undertake a formal consultation exercise, with responses and an amended draft, which would be brought to the Committee on 17 September 2013 for consideration and recommendations Council on 19 September 2013 for adoption.

During the discussion of this item the following points were made:

- In the past the Licensing Act Policy had to be reviewed every three years. The Policy was due to expire in September and was in need of review. In future the policy would only need to be reviewed every 5 years.
- The previous policies had been deemed satisfactory and had received no challenges.
- Members were asked to agree to the draft policy going to consultation with the statutory consultees, including all licensees. Any consultation responses would be brought back to the Licensing Committee meeting in September and the policy recommended to Council. It was noted that the agenda for the Council would be issued prior to when the Licensing Committee would be held and that any changes made by the Committee would be tabled at the Council meeting.
- Amendments highlighted related largely to changes required as a result of changes in legislation. This included the exemption of live music from the requirement to be licensed in certain circumstances, under the Live Music Act 2012 and the introduction of powers relating to Early Morning Restriction Orders and the Late Night Levy.

- It was clarified that decisions regarding policy made by the Licensing and Appeals Committee were binding on the Council and those made by the West Berkshire Licensing Committee were binding on West Berkshire Council.
- With regards to the areas that the Committee should receive information on, such as Tourism Strategies, the Chairman queried who should be alerting the Committee to such information. The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Licensing) agreed to look into the matter.
- The Principal Environmental Health Officer clarified that late refreshment referred to the provision of hot food and drink between 11pm and 5am.

RESOLVED: That the draft policy go out to consultation with the statutory consultees.

7. TAXI ROOF SIGNS

The Committee received a report, as set out on Agenda pages 29 to 32, which introduced a standard taxi sign to include the Wokingham Borough Council logo and licensing information for all Hackney Carriage vehicles for Public Safety.

During the discussion of this item the following points were made:

- Hackney Carriage vehicles are required to display an illuminated sign on the top of their vehicle which depicts that it is available for hire; this may include the words "TAXI" or "FOR HIRE". It was proposed that across the board signage that is not only aero-dynamic but also allows for Licensing information be sighted easily by the general public, be introduced.
- The Committee were presented with two different types of signs, both displaying the word 'TAXI' and the Council logo. There was also space for information regarding the operator or driver such as a telephone number. The larger signs also included a symbol indicating that it could be used by disabled passengers. Members agreed that the larger sign was preferable and that they wished to see uniformity. Members felt that would help passengers identify which vehicles were private hire vehicles.
- The signs were relatively low cost and had a long life LCD internal light which was thought to have a lifespan of around 10 years.
- Members were informed that drivers would be required to pay for the signs but they would cost in the region of £40-60.

RESOLVED: That consultation regarding the introduction of a standardised roof top sign for all Hackney Carriage vehicles to enhance Public Safety be agreed.

8. HEARINGS UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the outcome of Sub-Committees and Appeal Panels which had taken place since the last meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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

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