

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Committee held on Friday, 22 November 2013 at 9.30 am at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillors Les Stevens (Chair)
Phil Smith (Deputy Chair)
Margaret Adair
Jason Fazackarley
Ken Ferrett
Jacqui Hancock
Frank Jonas
Sandra Stockdale

Following notification on the agenda, the meeting was digitally recorded.

13. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ken Ellcome, Margaret Foster, Eleanor Scott, Aiden Gray and Hugh Mason.

14. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations.

15. Minutes of the Licensing Policy Committee meeting held on 23 October 2013 (AI 3)

Councillor Frank Jonas reported that he had been omitted from the attendance list.

RESOLVED that subject to Councillor Frank Jonas being added to the attendance list, the minutes of the Licensing Policy Committee held on 23 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the chair.

16. Annual Review of Licensing Fees (AI 4)

The Licensing Manager introduced the report and explained that it had always been the aim of the committee to work towards total cost recovery. The Licensing Committee had resolved (on 5 November 2008) that the fees were to be reviewed on an annual basis, to take into account inflationary and other increased costs. Due to increasing budgetary pressures the administration have made a clear commitment to ensuring that the licensing service achieves total cost recovery and no longer carries a deficit which has to be met by the Council tax payer.

To achieve this, a thorough analysis had been undertaken of the costs of every aspect of the licensing functions and what increases would be necessary to meet total cost recovery.

Members' questions

Members sought clarification on when the trade representatives were consulted.

Members' comments

Members were concerned that the trade had not been given the opportunity to come up with alternative options and that a four day notice was not 'consultation'.

The Licensing Manager explained the consultation process to members and reported that she had met with the trade representatives at the first available opportunity after the final figures had been completed by finance.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee agreed to postpone making a decision so as to allow the Licensing Manager to prepare and submit a financial briefing for members in relation to income and expenditure for the licensing budget and also to consult fully with the trade representatives. The Committee will meet again in December to consider the matter.

Deputations were due to be heard from Mr Viv Young (Hackney Carriage Trade Representative), Carolyn Holmes (Hackney Carriage Proprietor), Bruce Hall (General Manager, Aqua Cars Limited) and Perry McMillan (Unite Union) but as members had agreed to postpone making a decision they did not speak,

The meeting concluded at 10.00 am.

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Signed by the chair, Councillor Les Stevens