

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Committee held on Friday 4 March 2005 at 11.30am in civic Offices, Portsmouth.

PRESENT

Councillors Paula Riches (Chair)
Elaine Baker
Margaret Foster
Jacqui Hancock
Carolyn Lowndes
Robin Sparshatt
Tom Blair
Fred Charlton
Alan Langford
Frank Worley
Jezz Baker

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Geoff Goble, Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Deborah Tomes, Les Stevens, Lee Mason, Lee Hunt.

11 Declaration of Members' Interests in accordance with Standing Order 14 (AI 1)

No interests were declared.

12 Minutes of Licensing Committee Meeting held on 28 January 2005 (AI 2)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

13 Matters Arising from the Minutes (AI 3)

Item 4 Licensing Act 2003 – Pool of Model Conditions – Proposed Additional Model Condition

The colour of the tabards will not be yellow, as members of the public may confuse door staff with the Police. Colour yet to be decided but will be in place by November 2005.

14 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business because it is likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of “exempt information” within paragraphs 4 and 7 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

15 Item 8 Consideration of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr D

The Committee were informed that Mr D had chosen to appeal against their decision in the local magistrates court.

A correction to the minutes was also made for the recommendation to read 2 weeks for a period of 3 months instead of every 4 weeks for a period of 3 months.

16 Options for a Review of Current Policy to Restrict the Number of Hackney Cab Vehicle Licences (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The Licensing Officer introduced the report and gave details of the 3 options set out in it. Deputations were received from Caroline Holmes and Viv Young representing the Hackney and Taxi trade and Malcolm Wickham, General Manager of Aqua Cars. A copy of an article by the Directors of the National Taxi Association was submitted by the representatives of the hackney trade and was distributed to members.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve Option 3 - To commission a survey of unmet demand for the services of licensed hackney carriage vehicles to be carried out as soon as possible and to consider such action as the survey might recommend and to make budgetary provision for such a survey by way of an increase in licence fees charged to hackney carriage licence holders for the financial year 2005/06

In addition it was also agreed that the survey would be commissioned from the Independent Sector.

17 Appointment to Sub Committees (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The Committee reviewed the report.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the suggested composition of the main membership of the sub committees with the following changes:

Councillor Margaret Foster be a member of Sub Committee D and Councillor Fred Charlton be a member of Sub Committee A.

DS

However Democratic Services were asked to review the alternative deputies drawn from the Committee and a clarification of the position of the Standing Deputies in respect to the sub committees was required.

18 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Licensing Committee will be held at 9.30 on Friday 15 April 2005 in Conference Room B.

It was agreed that an additional meeting may be required on 8 April at 10am if representations have been received about the increase in Taxi Licenses fees.

The meeting concluded at 1.34

Chair