

LICENSING POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Policy Committee held on Friday 26 September 2008 at 9.30am in meeting room 1 in the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillors Les Stevens (chair)
Margaret Adair
Margaret Foster
Jacqui Hancock
Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Standing Deputy)
Lee Mason
April Windebank

Also in attendance

Peter Wyles (Independent member on the Standards Committee) – observing

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Fazackarley and his standing deputy, Councillor Leo Madden.

5. Declaration of Members' Interests in Accordance with Standing Order No 14 (AI 1)

There were no declarations made.

6. Minutes of the Licensing Policy Committee meeting held on 28 January 2008 (AI 2)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Policy Committee meeting held on 28 January 2008 be agreed and signed by the chair as a correct record.

7. Minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 23 January 2008, 6 February 2008, 20 February 2008, 5 March 2008, 26 March 2008, 11 April 2008, 30 April 2008, 20 May 2008 (TENS), 4 June 2008, 18 June 2008, 25 June 2008, 6 August 2008, 12 August 2008 and 13 August 2008 (AI 3)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 23 January 2008, 6 February 2008, 20 February 2008, 5 March 2008, 26 March 2008, 11 April 2008, 30 April 2008, 20 May 2008 (TENS), 4 June 2008, 18 June 2008, 25 June 2008, 6 August 2008, 12 August 2008 and 13 August 2008 were agreed as a correct record of the meetings and are to be signed by the appropriate chair for each meeting.

8. Licensing Committee – Night-time Visits (AI 4)

It was agreed that a night-time visit take place in December, when the city will be busy with University students. An itinerary was discussed and agreed. The Licensing Manager agreed to write to the committee with final details nearer the time.

9. Licensing Statistical Bulletin 2008 – Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment (AI 5)

(TAKE IN BULLETIN)

The Licensing Manager reported that this was the second year that Portsmouth City Council had submitted information to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (“DCMS”) and that this information would assist the DCMS with their ongoing monitoring of the licensing regime.

RESOLVED that the return submitted to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport by Portsmouth City Council be noted.

10. Recent Prosecutions – Licensing Matters (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

In response to Members questions, the Licensing Manager reported that Mr H had surrendered his driver’s licence.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

11. Review of Licensing Fees (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

The Licensing Manager introduced her report and reported that the costs of purchasing and implementing a new database system would be nearer to £100k, as opposed to £75k which was first suggested. A supplier has now been identified and the additional costs will have to be met from an increase in licensing fees. The last fee increase incurred by licence holders was in 2004 and members were reminded that a new licensing database would benefit the licence holders by improving the efficiency of the services provided by the Licensing Section.

The proposed higher level of charges in fees for the hackney carriage and private hire licences reflects the additional costs associated with the administration and enforcement of those particular types of licence. With regards to sex establishment licences, the fee was set on the basis that any cost involved in the licensing of these establishments should be met from the cost of the licence and not the taxpayer. It has been identified that income exceeds expenditure in this particular area and it is therefore recommended that the renewal fee be reduced from £12k to £8k.

RESOLVED that the proposed table of licensing fees be approved and implemented with immediate effect subject to any formal public statutory consultation.

The meeting concluded at 10.35am.

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Signed by the chair of the committee.