

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING COMMITTEE held at Surrey
Heath House, Camberley on
3rd June 2008**

- Cllr David Hamilton - Chairman
+ Cllr Stuart MacLeod - Vice-Chairman - in the Chair

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cllr Rodney Bates + Cllr Bill Chapman + Cllr Mrs Vivienne Chapman - Cllr Mike Drew + Cllr Craig Fennell + Cllr Surinder Gandhum + Cllr Paul Ilnicki 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cllr Bruce Mansell + Cllr Mrs Patricia Pearce + Cllr Audrey Roxburgh Cllr Stewart Stevenson Cllr David Whitcroft - Cllr Gret Woodason
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+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

001/L MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PART I
(public)

002/L HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES - PROPOSED FARE SCALE

Members were reminded that the Council had been empowered by Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to fix the rate of fares for hackney carriages that it licensed. The fare could include charges for time and distance and other charges that may be made in relation to hiring a hackney carriage. The last increase in hackney carriage fares had been implemented in July 2006.

As a result of large increases in fuel prices over the last 12 months a request had been received from five hackney carriage proprietors/drivers requesting that fares be increased, and following a meeting with a number of hackney carriage drivers and proprietors, proposed charges had been advertised for consultation purposes.

Members were advised that following the publication of the fare increases, a petition had been received from 37 drivers requesting that the proposed charges for distance travelled be increased. The justification for this had been the further increases in fuel and maintenance costs that had occurred since the publication of the proposals.

The Licensing Manager explained that there was potential for the drivers and proprietors to lose trade if fares were set at a too higher level and that a further review of fares could take place if there continued to be excessive increases in running costs.

RESOLVED that the fare scale for hackney carriages as advertised and attached to the agenda item as Annex A, be approved.

003/L HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER CHECKS

The Committee, at its meeting on 5th December 2007, approved procedures for undertaking checks of DVLA licences held by applicants for licences to drive hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The Committee was also asked to consider the fee to be charged for undertaking these licence checks.

Members discussed the charge of £5 imposed by the DVLA and the costs to the Council for carrying out these checks. After considering the amount of officer time and postal charges arising from carrying out the checks, Members agreed that applicants should be charged a fee of £10 for DVLA licence checks undertaken on their behalf.

RESOLVED that a fee of £10.00 be charged for undertaking hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver licence checks with the DVLA and licensing authorities in EU countries.

004/L ENFORCEMENT - APPOINTMENT OF THE LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR AS AN AUTHORISED OFFICER

The Licensing Manager and the Licensing Officer had already been designated as authorised officers for the purpose of enforcing some sections of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

A recent risk assessment had identified the need for inspections and enforcement action to be undertaken by officers working in pairs particularly when this involved working during out of hours or late at night.

The job description of the Licensing Administrator included assisting with enforcement work but she had not yet been appointed to undertake this role.

RESOLVED, that for the purposes of carrying out enforcement work, the Licensing Administrator be appointed as an authorised officer under Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

005/L LICENSING ACT 2003 - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Committee received a report on decisions that had been taken in respect of licence applications that have been dealt with under powers delegated to the Head of Legal and Corporate Services and the Licensing Manager.

Members noted the number of temporary event notices, premises licences, club certificates and personal licences approved by the Head of Legal and Corporate Services and the Licensing Manager under their delegated authority and noted that two Adjudication Sub Committee hearings had been held since its last meeting.

CHAIRMAN