

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing
Committee held at Surrey Heath House,
Camberley on 12 July 2012**

+ Cllr Bill Chapman – Chairman
+ Cllr Ian Sams – Vice Chairman

+ Cllr Rodney Bates	+ Cllr Bruce Mansell (to partway through 03/L)
+ Cllr Glyn Carpenter (from partway through 02/L)	- Cllr Ken Pedder
+ Cllr Mrs Vivienne Chapman	+ Cllr Chris Pitt
+ Cllr Surinder Gandhum	+ Cllr Joanne Potter
+ Cllr David Hamilton	- Cllr Pat Tedder
+ Cllr Beverley Harding	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr Paul Innicki	

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

In attendance: Councillor David Mansfield

01/L Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2012 were signed by the Chairman.

PART I
(public)

02/L Hackney Carriage Stands – Obelisk Way, Camberley

The Committee was informed that Surrey County Council had agreed to an experimental closure of Camberley High Street on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights between 6 pm and 4 am; it would also be closed on all bank holidays, the preceding Sunday to each bank holiday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. The trial period was expected to commence in August 2012 and would last for 18 months, although it was anticipated that if there were no insurmountable problems during that period, it would continue beyond that time.

The taxi rank located at the southern end of the High Street and the part-time rank outside Tru nightclub would consequently be inaccessible during these periods of closure. It would therefore be necessary to establish additional spaces to accommodate extra vehicles whilst the High Street was closed.

The Licensing Officer had consulted with the Police and Surrey County Council Highways Authority and it had been agreed that the current taxi stand in Obelisk Way, which currently provided for 5 vehicles, should be extended to accommodate 10 vehicles whilst the High Street was closed.

In accordance with Section 28 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the proposal to extend the taxi rank on Obelisk Way had been advertised and two representations had been received from Hackney Carriage Drivers. It was, however, advised that the principal objection received related to the time periods during which the High Street would be closed, which was outside Licensing Committee's remit.

RESOLVED that the hackney carriage stand on Obelisk Way be extended in accordance with the statutory advertisement to accommodate 10 vehicles.

03/L Hackney Carriage Fares – Proposed Fare Scale

The Committee was informed that there had been no increase in hackney carriage fares in the past 4 years. In the previous three years the Council had consulted with hackney carriage proprietors and drivers regarding a fare increase and, with the exception of two proprietors in 2011, the responses received indicated that proprietors and drivers did not want an increase in fares. However, following recent consultation with these parties the Licensing Officer had received representations requesting an increase in fares, including a petition signed by 45 drivers.

Members viewed a revised tariff of fares in conjunction with neighbouring authorities' charges and rates suggested by drivers in their consultation responses. It was proposed that "pull off" rates would remain the same but distance rates would be altered from £2.00 to £2.30 per mile for the day rate. The Committee noted that the proposed fares would be midway between the rates requested by the proprietors.

It was proposed that the night time rates, which could be charged between 11 pm and 7.30 am, be increased by an average of 10%. The Sunday rate would be increased to £2.75, slightly below a 20% increase on the day rate. There were no changes proposed to extra charges as no representations had been received about these fees and no changes were proposed to the waiting time charge.

The Committee was advised that the proposed fares would be advertised in a local newspaper prior to implementation. If no objections were received, the fares would come into effect on the last date for objections. If any objections were received, the Committee would receive a further report at its meeting in September.

RESOLVED to

- (i). note the draft hackney carriage fare chart; and**
- (ii). authorise the Licensing Officer to advertise the draft hackney carriage fare chart in accordance with statutory provisions.**

04/L Licensing Act 2003 – Summary of Decisions

The Committee received details of the decisions taken under delegated powers in respect of licence applications where no representations had been received from the responsible authorities or interested parties and details of Licensing Sub Committee hearings which had taken place since the previous committee.

The Chairman commended the Licensing team for their hard work and noted the high number of applications they had processed since the last meeting.

CHAIRMAN