

Licensing Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Ditchling and Telscombe Rooms, Southover House, Lewes, BN7 1AB, on 20 January 2022 at 10:30am

Present:

Councillor Sean MacLeod (Chair); Councillors Sam Adeniji, Liz Boorman, Roy Clay, Johnny Denis, Isabelle Linington and Jim Lord.

Officers in attendance:

Jo Dunk (Senior Specialist Advisor, Regulatory Services)
Jennifer Norman (Committee Officer, Democratic Services)
Dr Michele Wilkinson (Lawyer, Housing & Regulatory)
Rebecca Wynn (Regulatory Services Lead)

9 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2021 were submitted and approved, and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

10 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham Amy, Christine Robinson (Vice-Chair) and Linda Wallraven.

11 Declarations of interest

There were none.

12 Urgent items

There were none.

13 Written questions from councillors

There were none.

14 Approval of Licensing Fees

The Committee considered the report which sought its recommendation to Full Council that the licensing fees proposed within Appendix 1 apply from 1 April 2022.

The Regulatory Services Lead (RSL) presented the report and its findings, highlighting the taxi licensing surplus and its change in presentation within the

report from the previous year; reduced private hire driver fees; the introduction of new software; and the substantial increase in the licence fees relating to Dangerous Wild Animal Licences, as set out in the report and Appendix 1.

The Committee discussed costing surplus figures related to paragraph 3.4; a timeline for reviewing figures; new DBS requirements; training; and the deficit as referenced in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

The Committee requested an update on its previous request for child safeguarding training and disability awareness training, as referenced in bullet point 14 of Appendix 1. Officers explained that the Council was currently looking for suppliers to implement the training programs.

The Committee queried its previous request in respect of officers providing an expanded list of MOT providers to taxi and private hire licensees. Officers explained that the priority had been the implementation of the new guidance and the fixed door sign rollout, but that the matter was in hand.

Resolved:

That Full Council be recommended to approve the licensing fees proposed within Appendix 1 to apply from 1 April 2022.

15 Date of next meeting

That it be noted that the next meeting of the Licensing Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 3 March 2022 in the Ditchling and Telscombe Rooms, Southover House, Lewes, BN7 1AB, commencing at 10:30am.

The meeting ended at 10:59am.

Councillor Sean MacLeod (Chair)