

Licensing Committee – Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd June, 2010.

Present:- Councillors Davis (Chair), Rasib, P Choudhry (arrived at 6.31pm and left at 6.42 pm), S K Dhaliwal, Long, Maclsaac and Sohal.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor S Chaudhry, Dodds and Shine

PART I

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Davis declared a personal interest in that a member of his family worked for Burnham Cabs.

Councillor Maclsaac declared a personal interest as he was a frequent user of the taxi service.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 30 March 2010

The Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 30th March, 2010 were approved as a correct record.

3. Appointment of Licensing Sub Committee and Designated Chairs

Members were reminded that in May 2006 the Licensing Committee had established a Licensing Sub-Committee and agreed its terms of reference as set out in the Appendix to the report. The Committee had also agreed to the appointment of Designated Chairs of the Sub-Committee and that these Members would chair the meetings of the Sub-Committee on a rota basis. It was also brought to members attention that the Sub-Committee would consist of 3 members to be drawn on a rota basis from the Members of the Licensing Committee on a politically proportionate basis. It was noted that as Labour Group had an overall majority on the Council the Sub-Committee would comprise two Labour Members and one Member of BILLD Group.

Whilst noting the proposed recommendations in the report, a number of Members expressed concern that there would be no Conservative Group representation on the Sub-Committee. A Member proposed that the Sub-Committee consist of a BILLD and Conservative member who would rotate on each of the Sub-Committees. It was noted that this recommendation would be taken back and discussed at both the BILLD and Conservative Group meetings and reported to a future meeting.

Resolved -

- (a) That a Licensing Sub-Committee be established with terms of reference as set out in Appendix A.

Licensing Committee - 03.06.10

- (b) That Councillors Maclsaac, Rasib and Sohal be appointed as Designated Chairs of the Sub-Committee for 2010/11 municipal year.

4. Proposed Increase in Hackney Carriage Fares

The Licensing Manager reported that a request had been received from the Slough Taxi Drivers Union, to increase the current hackney carriage fares. Details of the proposed changes were highlighted for Members consideration. Members were reminded that the Licensing Committee in January 2007 had resolved that the costs of advertising the fare charges in a local newspaper were to be met by the Hackney Vehicle Proprietors from the next submission of proposed fare increases. Members were informed that the Drivers Union had confirmed that the cost of the advertisement for this increase would be divided by the 107 Proprietors and payable at the next renewal of their licence.

Mr Badial addressed the Committee on behalf of the Drivers Union by stating that Hackney Carriage Fares had remained constant for the past three years. However, following the recent recession and current economic climate, drivers were faced with substantial costs of maintenance of vehicles, steep fuel prices and increased insurance costs. It was therefore recommended that the fares needed to be increased to adjust to the cost of living.

Mr Badial stated that there was an adjustment to the proposed fee table as appended to the report in Appendix B, with the removal of 'all day any other bank holiday' being removed from the tariff rates. In summary, Mr Badial stated that a modest increase in fares was being requested.

In the ensuing discussion, Members questioned whether information relating to fares in neighbouring local authorities was available as a comparative indicator. The Licensing Manager stated that Members were being requested to set fares which in their opinion were reasonable and that this could vary between authorities.

Resolved –

- (a) That the proposed table of fares as appended to the report in Appendix B be approved.
- (b) That the cost of advertising to be met by the Hackney Vehicle Proprietors.

5. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 22 July, 2010

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.05 pm)