
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Wednesday, 8 July 2015 from 7.00 - 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Cameron Beart, Tina Booth, Roger Clark, Mike Dendor, Paul Fleming, June Garrad, Lesley Ingham (Chairman) and Ghlin Whelan

OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies, Ian Mackenzie and Len Mayatt

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors

APOLOGIES: Councillors Prescott and Anita Walker

94 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 January 2015 (Minute Nos. 447 – 451) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

95 PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

97 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PENALTY POINTS SCORING

The Chairman introduced the report which set out, as part of the ongoing review and management of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Service, recommended revisions to the number of penalty points awarded for infringements of the Council's Local Conditions. The Chairman referred to Appendix I which displayed the current points in blue and the proposed points in red. She further explained that if 12 or more points were accrued in a three-year period, the driver would be referred to the Licensing Committee.

In response to a question, the Hackney Carriage Inspector advised that checks were carried out on the drivers and vehicles at least once a week, and he was able to enforce whether he was 'on duty' or not.

The Commissioning and Open Spaces Manager reminded Members that if they saw anything that might contravene the Council's Local Conditions to contact the Hackney Carriage Inspector, with both the plate number and time.

In response to a Member who considered points for interfering with a taximeter should be higher than 9, and how this compared with other Local Authorities, the Hackney Carriage Inspector advised that this type of infringement was rare. He stated that the Council's points system was based on Ashford Borough Council's

system and Maidstone Borough Council had carried out a survey on the points system. He further advised that the smoking breach also applied to e-cigarettes.

Members supported the proposed changes.

Resolved: That the proposed revisions to the penalty points scoring be approved.

98 NEXT MEETING

The Chairman advised that the Commissioning and Open Spaces Manager and Hackney Carriage Inspector would be looking into the inclusion of an English written test for drivers, to be included within the Knowledge Test. This would then be considered at the next General Licensing Committee on 21 January 2016.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel