

LICENSING COMMITTEE AND SERVICE APPEALS PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee and Service Appeals Panel held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, on 12 August 2008 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Eric Heath (Chairman)

Councillor Margaret Cullip
Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor Paul O'Sullivan
Councillor John Wyse

Officers: Chris Rothwell (Head of Urban and Rural Services)
Natasha Barnes (Licensing and Vehicle Parks Manager)
Alexa Coates (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackwell, Reynolds, Mrs Stratford and Webb.

RESOLUTIONS

MATTERS NOT OF AN EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 July 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman outlined that he had agreed to allow an item of urgent business to the agenda at the request of Councillor Gibbard on the issue of the government consultation on the classification of premises as sex encounter establishments. The item was urgent as the consultation deadline was prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee. Councillor Gibbard outlined the issue of government proposals to classify certain premises as 'sex encounter establishments'. Officers were made aware of a recent article in *The Week* published on 2 August 2008 which reported that local authorities had until 15 August 2008 to respond to government consultation.

Resolved:

That Officers would investigate the possibility of responding to the government consultation on sex encounter clubs and would liaise with the Chairman regarding any required response.

10 LICENSING OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Urban and Rural Services which related to responses following the consultation on increases to hackney carriage fares proposed by the Cherwell Valley Hackney Carriage Association.

The Committee were informed that one response had been received by the Head of Urban and Rural Services during the consultation period which related to increases over the Christmas period, suggesting that this discriminated against Christians.

Resolved:

That the proposed increase to fares, as set out below, be approved to take effect by 18 September 2008.

	Mileage	Fare
Tariff 1 06.00 to 22.00	If the distance does not exceed one quarter mile or 403 meters for the whole distance; or if the distance exceeds one quarter mile or 403 meters, for the first quarter mile.	£2.00
	For each subsequent one sixteenth of a mile or 101 meters or uncompleted part thereof.	£0.11
Tariff 2 22.00 to 06.00	If the distance does not exceed one quarter mile or 403 meters for the whole distance; or if the distance exceeds one quarter mile or 403 meters, for the first quarter mile.	£2.30
	For each subsequent one sixteenth of a mile or 101 meters or uncompleted part thereof.	£0.12
Tariff 3 Christmas & New Year Tariff Between 21.00 on 24 Dec & 06.00 hrs on 27 Dec & 21.00 hrs on 31 Dec and 06.00 hrs on 2 Jan	If the distance does not exceed one quarter mile or 403 meters for the whole distance; or if the distance exceeds one quarter mile or 403 meters, for the first quarter mile.	£4.00
	For each subsequent one sixteenth of a mile or 101 meters or uncompleted part thereof.	£0.25
Tariff 4 Sunday & Public Bank Holidays 06.00 to 22.00	If the distance does not exceed one quarter mile or 403 meters for the whole distance; or if the distance exceeds one quarter mile or 403 meters, for the first quarter mile.	£2.30
	For each subsequent one sixteenth of a mile or 101 meters or uncompleted part thereof.	£0.12
Other Charges	Waiting time for 20 seconds	£0.10
	Soiling charge	£50.00

11 **TAXI SPECIFICATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Urban and Rural Services which related to the concerns of the Cherwell Valley Hackney Association about the specified colour of vehicles. The Association had requested that the Committee reconsider the practice of allowing white vehicles only and review the current taxi specification.

The Committee discussed the importance of hackney carriage vehicles being distinguished from private hire vehicles and the potential enforcement issues which may arise from a range of taxi colours. The Committee were informed of reports of difficulties in acquiring second hand white vehicles and the impact on the trade.

Resolved:

That the current policy be retained with a review after 12 months to assess the impact of the white only taxi vehicle specification to be reported back to committee.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

(Licensing Committee and Service Appeals Panel – 12 August 2008)

Chairman

Date