

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2014
10.00 - 10.34 AM

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall
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Present

Councillor Michael Wood (Chairman)
Councillors Keith Roberts (Vice Chairman), Peter Adams, Dean Carroll (Substitute) (substitute for Joyce Barrow), Peter Cherrington, Andrew Davies, Roger Evans (substitute for Nigel Hartin), Richard Huffer, Roger Hughes, Robert Macey, Jane MacKenzie (Substitute) (substitute for Vernon Bushell), Jon Tandy and Robert Tindall

1 Election of Chairman**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor M. Wood be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joyce Barrow (Substitute Dean Carroll), Vernon Bushell (Substitute Jane Mackenzie), N. Hartin (Roger Evans) and Simon Jones.

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Keith Roberts be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4 Welcome and Introduction from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

6 Minutes of Previous Meeting

An amendment to Minute 45 was reported, it had been agreed at the meeting on 19th March 2014 that Councillor Roger Hughes would also be part of the Rapid Action Group.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendment detailed above.

7 Public Question Time

There were no public questions or statements received.

8 Review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Consideration was given to a report of the Team Manager – Operational Community Safety which sought approval to proceed with the formal consultation process to review the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. (Copy attached to the signed minutes).

The Team Manager – Operational and Community Safety explained that notifying the trade both through a full circulation advertisement in the Shropshire Star and in writing was discretionary, however this was proposed in the interests of good consultation practice to publicise the consultation as widely as possible. The cost could be reduced by only using electronic means of communication. As approximately 50% of the trade had supplied email addresses, it was suggested that whilst using email was the best way forward in future, currently the Shropshire Star advertisement would be needed to catch those that were not on email. Members agreed that costs should be kept to a minimum.

The Team Manager – Operational and Community Safety concluded by stating that the Law Commission Report on Taxi and Private Hire Services would be included with the consultation as soon as it was received.

RESOLVED:

1. That the improvements to the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy suggested by the Trade be included within the policy review.
2. That the revised policy document (Appendix D) is suitable for formal review along with the improvements suggested by the Trade.
3. That formal consultation be undertaken on the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy for no less than 12 weeks to commence from June 2014.
4. That the Law Commission Report on Taxi and Private Hire Services, be added to the Website as part of the consultation process if made available during the consultation process.

9 Records of Proceedings - Licensing Act Sub-Committee

The records of proceedings of the Licensing Act Sub-Committee meetings from March 2014 to May 2014 were received by Members (Copies attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the records of proceedings of the Licensing Act Sub-Committee meetings from March 2014 to May 2014 be noted.

10 Appointment to Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee

The Committee were asked to confirm the delegated powers to the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2014 to 2015 (see minute 10 of the meeting held on 8th June 2011) and to appoint its membership. Members were reminded that this Sub-Committee's powers were mainly used for dealing with matters concerning hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and drivers. The Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Sub-Committee would be the Vice-Chairman of the Strategic Licensing Committee, Councillor Keith Roberts.

RESOLVED:

1. That, a standing Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee be established comprising 5 members of the Strategic Licensing Committee and with full delegated powers to discharge the Council's Licensing and Safety functions as set out in Annex A of the report to the Strategic Licensing Committee, see Minute 10 of the meeting held on 8th June 2011.
2. That the rules of the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee be those that were set out in Annex B of the report to the Strategic Licensing Committee, see Minute 10 of the meeting held on 8th June 2011.
3. That Councillors K. Roberts (Chairman), J. Barrow, A. Davies, V. Bushell and P. Cherrington be appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee with Councillors Steve Davenport, Roger Hughes, Jon Tandy, Nigel Hartin (1 Conservative Vacancy) appointed as substitute Members.

11 Licensing Act 2003 & Gambling Act 2005 Delegations and Administrative Matters

The Committee were asked to confirm the delegated powers of the Licensing Act Sub Committee for the municipal year 2014 to 2015 (see minute 11 of the meeting held on 8th June 2011). The Licensing Act Sub-Committee dealt with matters concerning applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. The committee were also asked to confirm the method of appointing members (which could be three members of the Strategic Licensing Committee).

RESOLVED:

That the delegated powers of, and method of appointments to, the Licensing Act Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2014 to 2015 be as those agreed on 8th June 2011 (See Minute 11).

12 Exercise of Delegated Powers

Consideration was given to a report of the Team Manager – Operational and Community Safety in relation to delegated powers to issue and amend licences. (Copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Team Manager – Operational and Community Safety be noted.

13 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (5) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item.

14 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Service Manager - Safer and Stronger Communities, in respect of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

RESOLVED:

That the two recommendations set out in the exempt report of the Service Manager – Safer and Stronger Communities be approved.

(The full version of Minute 14 constitutes exempt information under category 5 of paragraph 10 of the Council's Access to Information Rules and has accordingly been withheld from publication.)

15 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Strategic Licensing Committee would be held on Wednesday, 24th September 2014 at 10.00 a.m. in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: