

Licensing Board 7 July 2015
**A MEETING OF THE LICENSING BOARD
WAS HELD ON 7 JULY 2015**

The Mayor (Councillor Farr) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio), Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard , Mrs Batty (P), Beavis (P), Ms Diffey (P), Mrs Forder(P), Geddes (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy , Ronayne , Scard (P), and Mrs Searle .

It was noted that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.6, Councillor Mrs Cully had been nominated to replace Councillor Mrs Searle for this meeting.

7. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor, Councillors Ms Ballard Murphy and Mrs Searle.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board held on 24 March 2015 and 21 May 2015 be approved and signed as true and correct records.

10. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

12. PRESENTATION BY JASON PEARCE

PC Jason Pearce was invited to address the Board. He advised that he had taken on responsibility as the Licensing Officer for Gosport Fareham and Havant.

The Board were advised of measures in place to secure a contribution to control of night time disorder by licence condition, and this had proved effective in Gosport High Street. This included the employment of security staff to monitor behaviour at peak times for disorder.

The Board were also advised of procedures for test purchasing alcohol for under 18's.

Members thanked PC Pearce for his presentation.

13. GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE

CONDITIONS (“CONDITIONS”)

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing Services Manager seeking approval from the Licensing Board to implement the revised Conditions.

Members agreed that vehicles should be no more than 5 years old when first plated. This was to ensure the quality of the fleet.

In answer to a Member’s question, it was deemed appropriate for Private Hire Drivers, as well as Hackney Carriage Drivers, to undertake the local knowledge test as it included testing on conditions, laws and spoken English.

Members were advised that following a change in legislation the number of saloon Hackney Carriages had been restricted to plate numbers 1-50. There were currently 27 saloon cars in the fleet. The Board were requested to determine whether the number of saloon car plates remained at 50. The Board were advised that saloon cars were less expensive to run and that there were over 70 Hackney Carriages with wheelchair access in the fleet currently

Members agreed that 30 plates should be reserved for saloon cars.

Members questioned whether vehicles were independently examined upon reaching 8 years of age as some companies had their own garages.

It was recognised that the conditions could not recommend the use of a specific garage, but that the conditions could be amended to state that the vehicle inspection must be undertaken by an independent garage.

RESOLVED: The revised conditions set out in Appendix B of the Report be adopted and implemented on 1st September 2015 subject to the amendments detailed.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

15. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER’S LICENCE

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Housing Services Manager requesting the Board consider an application for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver’s Licence

RESOLVED: That the application for a Private Hire Vehicle Driver’s Licence be approved.

The Meeting concluded at 7pm

CHAIRMAN