

Subject to Approval

A MEETING OF THE LICENSING BOARD

WAS HELD ON 25 MARCH 2008

Councillors

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (ex officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (ex-officio); Councillors Ms Ballard (P), Carter (P), Champion (P), Mrs Cully (P), Davis, Farr (P), Foster, Foster-Reed (P), Jacobs (P), Rigg, Smith (P) and Ward.

Also in attendance

Mr S. Ellis, Ms V Jones, Mr R Lock, Mr S Tut.

49 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillors Davis and Ward.

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10, Review of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver Licence.

51 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Board held on 8 January 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

52 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

53 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

54 APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A SEX SHOP LICENCE – 353 FORTON ROAD

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which advised the Board of an application for the renewal of a Sex Shop Licence for premises situated at 353 Forton Road, Gosport.

Members commended the applicants on the way in which their business had been conducted over the past year.

In answer to a Member's question concerning the use of 'A' boards outside the premises, it was confirmed that Hampshire County Council in their capacity of Highways Authority had raised no objection to the use of the boards.

RESOLVED: That the application for the renewal of a Sex Shop Licence be granted for a further twelve months.

55 ADOPTION OF DVLA GROUP 2 MEDICAL CRITERIA FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which advised Members of the requirement to amend the existing hackney carriage and private hire licensing conditions in line with central government guidance in relation to the medical criteria applied to hackney carriage and private hire drivers.

Members were advised that the full DVLA "Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive" was available in the Members' Room for their perusal and that Appendix A to the report of the Environmental Services Manager was an extract to demonstrate the level of fitness standard required.

Members considered it necessary for Gosport Borough Council to adopt the Group 2 medical criteria for hackney carriage and private hire drivers. They also felt that the timescale for introducing compliance with these criteria, as indicated in paragraph 2.6 to the report, was appropriate.

Members were advised that officers had endeavoured to ascertain the costs that would be incurred by drivers in undergoing the necessary medical examination and, from the sample of General Practitioners questions, the charges quoted varied from £75 to £150.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. the existing Gosport hackney carriage and private hire conditions be amended to require Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive, Group 2 criteria for all medical reports submitted by new and existing drivers of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles as part of the licensing process; and
2. the existing Gosport hackney carriage and private hire conditions be amended to adopt the medical examination frequency required under Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive for group 2 medicals.

56 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 the 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 exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

57 REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE DRIVER LICENCE

Note: Councillor Smith declared an interest in this item, left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Environmental Services Manager advising the Board of a review of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver Licence.

The report was exempt from publication as the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information by reason that it contained personal information that was not considered appropriate to be released to the public.

RESOLVED: That:

1. following a review of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver Licence, no action be taken at this time; and
2. an application for the renewal of the Hackney Carriage and Vehicle Driver Licence be brought before the Board in six months' time.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.14 pm.

CHAIRMAN