

LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2018
GIPPING ROOM - GRAFTON HOUSE
6.00 PM

Present: Councillors N Cenci, S Connelly, S Darwin, D Goldsmith, I Lockington, A Ross, C Wright, E Xhaferaj, E Hughes, K E Elavalakan, G Chisholm and S Barber

41. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen, Councillor Armitage and Councillor Studd.

42. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 16 October 2018

Resolved:

That the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 October 2018, with the amendment of a minor typo in paragraph 36.2, be signed as a true record.

43. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

The Order of Business was confirmed as printed on the agenda.

44. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

45. LR/18/15 Gambling Act 2005: Determination of Statement of Licensing Principles

- 45.1. Debbie Devine, Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer, confirmed that two minor comments had been received following the consultation on the Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Principles which had been addressed.
- 45.2. The Officer confirmed that the policy would automatically be updated with regards to the change in the maximum stake for fixed odds betting machines due to be brought in by Government in April 2019 and this would not require approval from the Licensing & Regulatory Committee in the future.
- 45.3. In response to a question, the Officer advised that only take-away shops with a premises licence permitting alcohol to be consumed on the premises may have gaming machines.

Resolved:

that the revised draft statement, attached as appendix 1, be submitted to the Council for consideration and adoption.

46. LR/18/16 Introduction of a Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy

- 46.1. Ms Devine provided an overview of the recommended Ipswich Borough Council Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy and confirmed that following the Committees agreement, a consultation period with stakeholders and the public would be undertaken lasting approximately 8-12 weeks.
- 46.2. Discussion took place around how members of the public could be encouraged to report concerns should any occur during their journeys and it was agreed that a sticker should be placed in the rear window of every vehicle displaying the Council's contact details and the vehicle licence number. Following the introduction of the policy, the website would be amended to clearly state the standards expected and required of all IBC licensed drivers. It was also confirmed that the team responded and investigated all complaints received.
- 46.3. Following discussion of the dress code, it was confirmed that the below amendment should be made to the policy:

‘As a minimum standard, males should wear trousers and a shirt which has a full body.’

‘As a minimum standard, females should wear long legged trousers, knee length skirt or dress and a shirt/blouse.’

Resolved:

that the Operations Manager – Public Protection be authorised to undertake the consultation process, with the above amendment, related to the determination of a new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

47. LR/18/17 Licensing Act 2003: Applications Update Report

Resolved:

that the report be noted.

48. Councillor Hughes update on Southwark Councils' Women's Safety Charter

48.1. Councillor Hughes provided an update on Southwark Council's Women's Safety Charter. The Charter had been adopted following agreement by full Council and following the appropriate processes, had been implemented since October 2014.

48.2. The Women's Safety Charter had been designed for premises to show their support in tackling harassment of all types within licensed venues and ensuring that staff had been trained to take any report of harassment seriously and to take active steps to ensure the safety of women involved when inside and leaving the premises. A certificate would be issued to each premises who signed up and since its introduction, the voluntary initiative had been very successful within Southwark's busy night time economy.

48.3. Following unanimous agreement by the Licensing & Regulatory Committee, discussion took place around the ways Ipswich Borough Council could adopt a similar policy and it was agreed that discussion should take place with Officers at Southwark Council and with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection.

48.4. It was suggested that major venues and new premises within the town centre should be considered first once a charter had been agreed.

48.5. Councillor Ross agreed to include the Women's Safety Charter on the agenda for the next Public Protection & Customer Services Working Group and it was agreed that an update would be provided at the next Licensing & Regulatory Committee meeting with a time frame for implementation at IBC.

49. Reclaim the Night Update

49.1. Councillor Darwin confirmed that the Reclaim the Night March would be held on the 6 December 2018 at 6.00pm and would start and finish at the University of Suffolk (the Waterfront Building). The March had been arranged to show unity in calling for an end to sexual violence within the night time economy and a commitment from all to address this issue.

50. Exclusion of Public

Resolved:

That the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as it was likely that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within paragraphs 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

51. Unconfirmed Exempt Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 16 October 2018

Resolved:

that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018 be signed as a true record.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Chair