

LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2018
ORWELL ROOM, GRAFTON HOUSE
9.45 AM

Present: Councillors J Carnall, H Clarke, S Connelly, S Darwin, R Fern, C Jones, C Kreidewolf, I Lockington, D Maguire, A Ross, B Studd and R Vickery

27. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cenci, Goldsmith and Wright.

28. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 30 November 2017

28.1. Debbie Devine, Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer, reported that 20 drivers had their licences suspended as they had not attended the mandatory training on child sexual exploitation, dementia and disability awareness. However, for the majority of drivers involved this was due to the decision to retire from the trade/not renew their licence.

Resolved:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November 2017 be confirmed as a true record.

29. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

That the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the agenda.

30. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

31. Taximeter Calibration 2018 - Verbal Report from the Chair of the Ipswich Station Taxi Tenants Association

- 31.1. Malcolm Goodwin, Chair of the Station Taxi Tenants Association, raised concerns regarding the Taximeter Calibrations which took place on 12 March 2018 for Cygnus taximeters. These concerns included the ability for passengers to be overcharged for their journeys by use of the “extras” which could be charged on the taximeter. Mr Goodwin explained that the use of one chip for all taxi meters could have a detrimental effect on passengers and suggested that further investigation should take place. Councillor Connelly noted that the use of a lesser number of chips for all taxi meters had been proposed as this would cut down costs for drivers.
- 31.2. Ms Devine explained that taxi drivers could attempt to overcharge customers already for their journeys through the use of the “extras” button and confirmed that the tariff would be correct in terms of distance and time which was the most important element of the journey.
- 31.3. Councillor Ross reported that discussions would take place outside of the meeting with the Licensing & Enforcement Team to discuss the concerns which had been raised and to consider any possible alternatives prior to the next taximeter calibrations. He advised that the Council set benchmarks against other Councils within the area and it was hoped that in time, a national standard could be implemented across the board for all Local Authorities.
- 31.4. It was agreed that a future Working Group meeting would be arranged in the new municipal year where trade representatives would be invited to attend.
Action: that a Working Group meeting be arranged in the new municipal year for Taxi Trade Representatives to attend.
- 31.5. The Officer confirmed that the potential for passengers to be overcharged would always be possible however, every complaint received regarding overcharges would always be investigated.
- 31.6. It was suggested that the use of local media/the Angle could be used to publish information to taxi users about overcharging and how complaints could be made to the Council. This could also be advertised within the vehicle.

32. LR/17/08 Advertising on Private Hire Special Needs Vehicles

- 32.1. The Officer explained that the Committee had been asked to consider allowing commercial advertisements on Private Hire Special Needs Vehicles. At present, advertising was permitted for both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Wheelchair Accessible vehicles.
- 32.2. Councillor Lockington suggested that any internal advertising should be considered to ensure that there would be no issues for passengers. The Officer confirmed that discussions regarding this would be undertaken with the Private Hire Operator, 405 Cabs.

Resolved:

that the proposed Conditions of Licence for Private Hire Special Needs Vehicle Licences attached as Appendices C be approved and attached to the grant and re-grant of relevant licences.

33. LR/17/09 Street Trading Application - Simply Donuts Ltd

- 33.1. The Officer confirmed that an application had been received by Simply Donuts Ltd regarding a street trading stall in Tavern Street operating between 8.30am and 5.00pm.
- 33.2. Councillor Jones commented on the requirement for a “Victorian” style stall and it was agreed that a review on the Street Trading requirements be undertaken in the near future.
- 33.3. Councillor Lockington asked if there had been a reduction in street traders and what the reason for this could be. The Officer reported that the income from street trading had decreased in the past year. It was hoped that more street traders could be encouraged to apply in Ipswich following the review.

Resolved:

that street trading consent be granted to Mr Bree to sell hot doughnuts and cold drinks in Tavern Street, 7 days a week, from 8.30am to 5.00pm, for a period of 12 months.

34. LR/17/10 Street Trading Application - Grill Hut

- 34.1. The Officer reported that an application had been received for the sale of grilled food in Ipswich. The applicant had applied to trade however, had requested that the Committee choose the most appropriate location between Carr Street and Westgate Street.
- 34.2. Discussion took place around food odours and how this could be accounted for. It was noted that no complaints had been received regarding similar food stalls within the town thus far.

Resolved:

that street trading consent be granted to Mr Ahmed to sell grilled food in Carr Street, 7 days a week, from 10.00am to 4.00pm, for a period of 12 months.

35. Prosecution under the Licensing Act 2003: Verbal Report on Outcome of Hearing (17 April 2018)

- 35.1. The Officer reported that Mamma Mia, Pizza & Grill Restaurant, had been prosecuted under the Licensing Act 2003 for providing late night refreshments

without a licence which had caused issues for local residents. The hearing had been held on the 17th April where the owner had pled guilty to the first charge and had been ordered to pay a fine of £150, costs of £2000 and a £30 victim surcharge.

35.2. The Licensing & Regulatory Committee noted the importance of cases such as these and congratulated the Officers involved.

36. LR/17/11 The Licensing Act 2003: Applications Update Report

36.1. Councillor Ross advised that there appeared to be a nationwide trend with regards to Hairdressers and Beauty Salons applying for licences for the sale of alcohol and therefore more applications could be received in the future.

36.2. Discussion took place around the timetable which was prepared for the 2018/19 Licensing Sub-Committee hearings. It was agreed that future discussions should take place about how effective this had been and what other options could be considered.

Resolved:

that the report be noted.

37. Exclusion of Public

It was resolved:

that the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as it is likely that if member 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.

38. Unconfirmed Exempt Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 30 November 2017

Resolved:

that the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017 be signed as a true record.

The meeting closed at 10.36 am

Chair