

SWT Licensing Committee - 20 December 2021

Present: Councillor Mark Lithgow (Chair)

Councillors Janet Lloyd, Simon Coles, John Hassall, Sue Lees, Ray Tully, Brenda Weston and Loretta Whetlor

Officers: Clare Rendell and John Rendell

Also Present: Councillor Andrew Hadley

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

12. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors C Palmer and A Trollope-Bellew.

13. Minutes of the previous meetings of the Licensing Committee

(Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 21 June 2021 and 29 November 2021 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 21 June 2021 and 29 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

14. Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Lithgow	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington & Sampford Arundel	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr R Tully	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr B Weston	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and Voted

15. Public Participation

No members of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

16. **Licensing Update Report**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors requested clarification on the information given on Pavement Licenses in section 4.2 and 4.3 of the report.
The Licensing Specialist gave clarification and explained that the Pavement Licence Scheme was a temporary scheme and if it wasn't extended, the permissions would revert back to those issued under the Highways Act.
- Councillors queried whether there would be a cost for those licenses issued under the Highways Act.
The Licensing Specialist advised that there would be a cost, which would be calculated based on the amount of work involved in issuing the license.
- Councillors were surprised that there had been no changes made to the taxi fare limit since 2010.
- Councillors acknowledged that the proposed increase in the taxi fares had been requested by a taxi firm and that it had not been instigated by council officers.
- Councillors queried how often could the fares be revised.
The Licensing Specialist advised that they could be changed at any time and that there were no set time frames for any revisions.
- Councillors highlighted that although the taxi fares were being increased, that the figures being set, were the maximum a taxi driver could charge and that they could charge less than those figures if they so wished.

Resolved that the Licensing Committee noted the Update Report.

(The Meeting ended at 6.30 pm)