

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN**

**4TH SEPTEMBER 2006 (10.30AM)**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), G W Ballinger, P Dyke, G H Eeles, Mrs P V Hayward, W G Jones, M A Salter, D R Sheppard, G C Yarranton.

**OBSERVERS:**

There were no members present as observers

**LIC.212 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: S J M Clee (Vice-Chairman), J-P Campion, Mrs A T Hingley

**LIC.22 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor W G Jones was a substitute for Councillor J-P Campion. Councillor M A Salter was a substitute for Councillor S J M. Clee. Councillor G C Yarranton was a substitute for Councillor Mrs. A T Hingley.

**LIC.23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LIC.23 MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.25 LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment regarding a proposal that a working party be set up to consult with stakeholders and responsible authorities, to assess the impact of the Licensing Policy of the District, during the first twelve months of operation.

Members were interested as to whether this exercise had been carried out

elsewhere and the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager confirmed that we were the first Authority in the West Midlands to set up such a working group.

**DECISION:**

**The Group consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a member from each political group which is represented on the Licensing and Environmental Committee. Membership would therefore comprise as follows:**

**Chairman**

**Vice Chairman**

**Councillors G.W. Ballinger, D.R. Sheppard, and Mrs. P.V. Hayward together with a nominated member of the Labour Party.**

(Councillor P. Dyke, the only Member of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Committee, indicated that it would be difficult for him to attend these meetings and therefore would not be a member.)

**LIC.26 OFFICERS' LICENSING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE**

The Committee gave consideration to the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment with regard to a draft Officers' Licensing Code of Good Practice, which would determine how officers would act whilst administering the licensing system. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager informed the Committee that this Code in many respects mirrored the practice in place for Development Control.

**RECOMMENDED to Cabinet to RECOMMEND to Council:**

**The Officers' Licensing Code of Good Practice be approved for use by officers when dealing with licensing issues.**

**LIC. 27 TAXI TRADE LIAISON**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment on a proposal that the Taxi Trade Liaison Group should be re-appointment to ensure continued consultation between the Council and the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire trade on issues of mutual interest.

**DECISION:**

**(1) The Taxi Trade Liaison Group be re-appointed consisting of**

- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee and Councillor G.W. Ballinger;**

- **The Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment;**
  - **Four members of the Taxi trade, nominated by the trade.**
- (2) **The group should meet three times per year to discuss issues of common interest between the Council and the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire trade and report back to this Committee as necessary.**

**LIC.28      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**DECISION:**

**Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “Exempt Information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**LIC.29      TO REVIEW A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVING LICENCE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment regarding a review of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driving licence. Having carefully considered all of the information, the Committee decided not to revoke the licence in this case

**The meeting ended at 11.15 am.**