

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

9TH FEBRUARY 2015 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: P B Harrison (Chairman), G C Yarranton (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, G W Ballinger, R Bishop, A R Clent, E Davies, J A Hart, P V Hayward, V Higgs, M B Kelly, N Knowles, M Price, D R Sheppard and M J Stooke.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Holden.

LIC.20 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor M J Stooke was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Holden.

LIC.21 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made for part one of the agenda.

LIC.22 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.23 Increase in Fees and Charges for Licensing the Council's Regulatory Service Function for 2015/2016

The Committee received a report from the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council, which informed Members of the proposed increase in the fees and charges in respect of the Council's Regulatory Service Function for 2015/2016.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner (WRS) led Members through the report and appendices, and advised that the proposal was to increase all fees with the exception of Taxi Licensing fees and those statutory fees set by Central Government, by 5% which would be rounded up where appropriate.

Members were also advised that the budget forecast for 2015/2016 which included the proposed increase, showed no projected profit would be made on the licensing activities for which the proposed increase related to.

Agreed: To recommend to Council that the proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2015/2016, as detailed in the report, be included in the 2015/2016 budget strategy.

Councillor M B Kelly left the meeting at this point, (10.39am).

LIC.24 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 paragraphs 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.42am and re-convened at 10.47am.

There were no declarations of interest made for part two of the agenda.

LIC.25 Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage Private Hire Driver's Licence

The Committee received a report from the Director of WRS on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council that asked Members to consider an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner led Members through the report and highlighted the relevant convictions listed on the DBS disclosure form which was circulated to Members at the meeting.

The applicant addressed the Committee and asked Members to support his application. Following questions from Members, the applicant outlined the circumstances surrounding his previous convictions.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner, Technical Officer - Licensing and applicant left the meeting at this point, (11.03am), for Members to deliberate their decision. The Solicitor and the Committee and Member Services Officer stayed in the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

The Solicitor left the meeting at 11.08am to clarify an issue with the Licensing Officer, and re-entered at 11.09am.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner, Technical Officer - Licensing and applicant re-entered the meeting at this point, (11.30am). The Solicitor read out the decision of the Committee.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence to the applicant the Committee has decided that the application to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence to the applicant be refused on the grounds that the applicant did not appear to the Committee, with due

consideration of the Council's "Guidelines relating to the Relevance of Convictions", to be "a fit and proper person" to hold such a Licence in light of the applicant's conviction dated 10 March 2011 for assault occasioning actual bodily harm being an offence of violence that is less than 5 years old prior to the date of the application.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.37am.