

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD AT
FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2007**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J H Baverstock - Chairman

* Cllr J W Squire - Vice-Chairman

* Cllr K J Baldry

* Cllr J I G Blackler

* Cllr B E Carson

* Cllr R J Carter

* Cllr P H Cook

* Cllr C W Jones

* Cllr D W May

* Cllr C M Pannell

ø Cllr S L Rankin

* Cllr M F Saltern

* Denotes attendance

ø Denotes apology for absence

Officers in attendance:

All items: Licensing Manager and Licensing Officer

L.1/07

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 10 November 2006 and of the Licensing Sub Committees held during the period 7 December 2006 to 8 August 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

L.2/07

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. These were recorded as:-

Cllr C M Pannell declared a personal interest in item 6: 'Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for 2008-11' (minute L.4/07 below refers) by virtue of possessing a personal licence for South Brent Village Hall and took part in the discussion but abstained from the vote on this item.

L.3/07

HACKNEY CARRIAGES – TABLE OF FARES 2008/09

A report was considered which sought Members approval to change the Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages for 2008/09.

During discussion, Members were informed that the charges were in line with inflation and remained reasonable, proportionate and competitive. The increase would also allow the trade to keep pace with operating costs.

Members expressed their appreciation for the service that taxis perform in augmenting the public services in the area. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed his deepest sympathy at the recent tragic loss of two South Hams taxi drivers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:-

- a) In respect of hackney carriages operating within South Hams District Council, the maximum fares which may be charged should be set in accordance with the Table of Fares attached as the appendix to the report; and
- b) The Table of Fares be advertised and come into effect in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

L.4/07

DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY FOR 2008-11

A report was considered which sought Members approval of the proposed 'South Hams Statement of Licensing Policy' for the period 2008-11.

Members were informed that for the previous three years the licensing policy had performed what was required, with the only controversial point being that licensed premises had no automatic right to extended opening hours.

During discussion, a Member made reference to the issue that the Parish Councils were not consulted upon during the licence application process. Members were informed that a summary of all applications for new licences or variations were entered on the Council's website for the statutory twenty eight days for public consultation.

The Committee was informed that the Chairman and Licensing Manager would be meeting the Chief Superintendent for the area to discuss the slight increase in alcohol-related offences. The Chairman informed the Committee that he would feedback any concerns or issues highlighted.

In conclusion, the Committee considered that overall the policy had worked well.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** to approve the Statement of Licensing Policy.

(Meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 10.55 pm).

Chairman