

Minutes

Licensing Committee

17th January 2018



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
Mrs J Allen	Apologies	H Johnson	Yes
M Banthorpe (Chairman)	Yes	Mrs J Pell	Yes
P Barlow	Apologies	B Rose	Apologies
J Baugh (Vice-Chairman)	Yes	R van Dulken	Apologies
J Elliott	Yes	Mrs L Walters	Yes
J Goodman	Apologies	Mrs S Wilson	Yes
A Hensman	Yes		

18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interest was declared:-

Councillor A Hensman declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 – ‘Hackney Carriage Fares – Review’ as he was the holder of a dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle driver’s licence issued by Braintree District Council. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillor Hensman left the meeting for the consideration of this Item.

19 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 15th November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked or statements made during Question Time.

Mr A Holden, Chairman of Braintree District Taxi Association, attended the meeting and he answered questions put to him by Members of the Committee during the consideration of Item 5 – ‘Hackney Carriage Fares – Review’.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES – REVIEW OF FARES

(Mr A Holden, Chairman of Braintree District Taxi Association, attended the meeting and he answered questions put to him by Members of the Committee during the consideration of this Item).

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report regarding a request which had been received from Braintree District Taxi Association for a change to Hackney Carriage vehicle fares.

The Taxi Association had requested a permanent change with respect to mileage Tariff 1 to increase the starting rate from £3.20 to £3.50 and to increase the waiting time from £18 per hour to £21 per hour. A copy of the proposed fare card showing the new fare structure was attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

In a letter dated 10th January 2018, the Taxi Association had stated that the request had been made due to increases in the cost of living and increases in fuel, insurance, vehicle parts and vehicle maintenance costs. Furthermore, whilst the Association had tried to keep fares down over the past three years, it considered that an increase was necessary to enable its members to reclaim some expenses and to maintain their vehicles at a high standard. No other increases, or changes had been requested.

The Taxi Association had been invited to review fares on an annual basis, with the last request for an increase having been considered by the Licensing Committee on 4th March 2015. In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council was able to fix the rates or fares within a District, for time as well as distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or the arrangement of a vehicle, to be paid in accordance with the fare card. It was noted that any amendments to fares had to be publicised in the local Press and that any representations submitted would be reported to the Council.

DECISION: That the request by Braintree District Taxi Association for a change to Hackney Carriage vehicle fare mileage Tariff 1 by increasing the starting rate from £3.20 to £3.50 and increasing the waiting time from £18 per hour to £21 per hour be referred for statutory consultation. If following consultation, representations are submitted the matter is to be referred back to the Council for consideration.

REASON FOR DECISION: To consider a request by Braintree District Taxi Association for a fare increase with respect to Mileage Tariff 1 (starting rate) from £3.20 to £3.50 and an increase in the waiting time rate from £18 per hour to £21 per hour.

The meeting closed at 7.36pm.

Councillor M Banthorpe
(Chairman)