

# Minutes

## Licensing Committee

4th March 2015



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J S Allen	Apologies	C Gibson	Yes
M J Banthorpe (Chairman)	Yes	M Green	No
J Baugh	Apologies	S A Howell	Apologies
T G Cunningham	Apologies	H D Johnson	Yes
J G J Elliott	Yes (from 7.17pm)	J A Pell	Apologies
J H G Finbow	Yes	L S Walters	Yes
M J Fincken	No	S A Wilson	Apologies
M E Galione	Apologies	R Wright	Yes

### 31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**INFORMATION:** The following interest was declared:-

Councillor L S Walters declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 – ‘Hackney Carriage Proprietors’ Licences – Allocation’ as Mr Grzwegorz Falkowski, one of the applicants for a proprietors’ licence, was known to her as he was a former work colleague.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillor Walters remained in the meeting for the consideration of this Item.

### 32 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 19th November 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 33 **QUESTION TIME**

**INFORMATION:** There were no questions asked, or statements made.

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

## 34 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES – REVIEW OF FARES**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to 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 by the reduction in the 'subsequent' distance measurement from 101.49 metres to 95.4006 metres. No request had been made to alter the rate for this distance from £0.10p. The Taxi Association had made the request based on the cost of living and increased fuel costs. 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 20th November 2013.

It was noted that any amendments to fares had to be publicised in the local Press and that any objections submitted would be reported to the Committee.

**DECISION:** That the 'subsequent' distance measurement for Hackney Carriage vehicle fare Tariff 1 be reduced from 101.49 metres to 95.4006 metres.

## 35 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE PROPRIETORS' LICENCES – ALLOCATION**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to the allocation of three Hackney Carriage vehicles proprietors' licences.

Members of the Committee were reminded that the Council currently limited the number of Hackney Carriage vehicles proprietors' licences issued under Section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to 84. In 2012, a survey had been undertaken which had indicated no unmet demand for Hackney Carriages in the Braintree District. It was reported, that due to differing circumstances, seven proprietors' licences were currently available for allocation by the Council.

On 14th May 2014 the Licensing Committee had recommended a proposed policy for the allocation of Hackney Carriage vehicles proprietors' licences. This policy had been approved by Cabinet on 21st June 2014.

On 23rd July 2014 the Licensing Committee had agreed that three Hackney Carriage vehicles proprietors' licences be issued in accordance with the Council's allocation policy and that the allocation of the remaining four licences be withheld pending the submission of a report to the Licensing Committee reviewing the demand for, effect and impact of the initial allocation.

All currently licensed Braintree District Council Private Hire and/or Hackney Carriage drivers had been notified in writing that three Hackney Carriage proprietors' licences were available for allocation and they had been invited to register their interest in obtaining a licence. A notice had also been placed on the Council's website. A total of 45 expressions of interest had been deemed valid and these had been entered into the ballot for the allocation of the proprietors' licences to be drawn at the Licensing Committee meeting on 4th March 2015. Three reserves would also be drawn should any of the successful applicants be unable to proceed.

The successful applicants would be required to licence a wheelchair accessible vehicle within 28 days of the ballot and to meet the Council's current vehicle criteria. They would also be required to complete a declaration that the proprietors' licence would not be sold, or transferred for a period of five years. Furthermore, if a successful applicant was already an existing Hackney Carriage proprietor he/she would be required to complete a declaration not to sell, or transfer their existing licence.

The Chairman drew the ballot at the meeting observed by representatives of the 'taxi' trade, Members of the Licensing Committee and Officers. The outcome of the ballot is recorded below.

#### **DECISION:**

- (1) That a Hackney Carriage proprietors' licence be issued to each of the following applicants, subject to the Council's requirements being met:-

<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Name of Applicant</u>
1	15	Mr Caner Abdullah
2	27	Mr Perry Everitt
3	2	Mr Malcolm Simmons

- (2) That, if any of the above-mentioned applicants is not able to meet the Council's requirements, the Hackney Carriage proprietors' licence(s) be issued to applicants on the reserve, approved list in the following order, subject to the same requirements being met:-

<u>Reserve Allocation</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Name of Applicant</u>
1	16	Mr Ramazan Gorgulu
2	35	Mr Neil Allsop
3	32	Mr Sharef Ali

The meeting closed at 7.27pm.

Councillor M J Banthorpe  
(Chairman)