

# GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

Friday 17 June 2005

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Brett (Chair), Councillor Turner (Vice-Chair), Buckingham, Campbell, Goddard and Muir.

**OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OR PART OF THE MEETING:** Jeremy Franklin and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit), Phil Pirouet and Jill Cramer (Transport and Parking Business Unit), Emma Burson (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit, and Rebecca Carley (Area Co-ordinator).

## 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2005/06 COUNCIL YEAR

Resolved that Councillor Brett be elected Chair of the Committee for the 2005/06 Council Year.

## 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2005/06 COUNCIL YEAR

Resolved that Councillor Turner be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2005/06 Council Year.

## 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brown.

## 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Turner declared a personal interest in the item on City Centre Street Trading because the partner of a holder of an existing street trading permit had spoken to him about of this item.

## 5. POWERS AND DUTIES

Resolved to note the contents of the note (previously circulated and now appended) setting out the Committee's powers and duties.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Resolved: -

- (1) that the following Sub-Committees with membership as set out below and with the powers and duties contained in the note (previously circulated and now appended) of the Interim Legal and Democratic Services Business Manager be established for the Council Year 2005/06:-

Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee

Councillors Buckingham, Campbell and Turner.

Public Entertainment and Other Matters Licensing Sub-Committee

Councillors Brett, Muir and Turner.

- (2) to agree that meetings of the Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee be held on the following dates: -

Thursday 7 July 2005

Thursday 13 October 2005

Thursday 12 January 2006

Thursday 6 April 2006

## 7. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2005 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings.

## 8. NEW DRIVER APPLICATIONS – AMENDED CRITERIA AND CHARGES

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Committee also considered a letter of support from the City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association that the Chair determined should be considered as urgent business so that the Committee had all relevant information before it prior to taking a decision on this matter.

Resolved to: -

- (1) approve the criteria for new applicants for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) RECOMMEND Council to
  - (a) authorise the Transport and Parking Business Manager to formulate and revise the testing procedures when necessary;

- (b) approve the charges associated with the granting of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and authorise the Transport and Parking Business Manager to revise fees when necessary;
- (3) ask for a brief report to be circulated to members of the Committee setting out projected expenditure and explaining how the increased revenue met the projected increased expenditure.

## **9. LICENCE FEES INCREASE AND CHANGE IN STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Committee also considered a letter (previously circulated with the previous item and now appended) from the City of Oxford Licensed Taxicabs Association (COLTA) on the proposals. Mr Pirouet (Taxi Licensing Officer) explained that the proposed increases, as set out in the report, took into account the points raised in the letter from COLTA.

Resolved to approve the increase in the fees charged for Private Hire Operators and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle and Driving Licences, and the changes in staff hours, as set out in the report.

## **10. HACKNEY CARRIAGE ADVERTISING – MEDIA SCREEN**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that no further action be taken in respect of permitting media screens in Hackney Carriage for the purposes of advertising.

## **11. GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE RELEVANCE OF CONVICTIONS**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved to agree the amendment to paragraph 3 of the Guidelines on the Relevance of Convictions as follows: -

“In the case of offences that have led to a term of imprisonment, the periods given will run from the date that the full sentence awarded by the court would have been completed.”

(Councillors Brett and Goddard voted against the above resolution and asked that this be recorded in the minutes.)

The Chair (Councillor Brett) explained that he was the Vice-Chair of the Central, South and West Area Committee that had previously considered the reports referred to in minutes 12 and 13, and he did not consider it appropriate that he should be in the Chair while those items were being considered. The Vice-Chair (Councillor Turner took the Chair for those items.)

## **12. CITY CENTRE STREET TRADING -- BONN SQUARE AND CORNMARKE STREET**

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved to:

- (1) approve the proposal to establish a weekly let street trading location in Bonn Square, as set out in the report, at a fee of £125 per week;
- (2) authorise the Environmental Health Business Manager to issue street trading consent subject to any additional terms and conditions as appropriate.

## **13. ARTS MARKETING KIOSK**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved to approve the granting of a street trading consent for an arts marketing booth on the street trading pitch referred to in the report, with such conditions as the Leisure and Parks and Environmental Health Business Managers deem necessary.

## **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members referred to the fact that membership of the General Purposes Licensing Committee and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee was virtually the same and it would be useful if the meetings could be on the same day and follow on from one another.

Resolved that the dates of meetings of the General Purposes Licensing Committee and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee be harmonised, and the Interim Legal and Democratic Services Business Manager advise members of revised dates as soon as possible.

The meeting opened at 9.30 a.m. and closed at 10.21 a.m.