

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10:00AM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Grice, Mrs. D. (Chairman)
Johnson, T.B. (Vice-Chairman)

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| Foley, D. (substitute) | Lea, C.I. |
| Hardman, B. | Snape, P.A. |
| Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute) | Witton, P.T. |

15. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F.W.C. Allen, M.R. Grocott, M. Sutherland and Mrs. D.M. Todd.

Councillor D. Foley was substituting for Councillor Mrs. D.M. Todd, and Councillor M.W.A. Hoare was substituting for Councillor M. Sutherland.

16. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

17. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 23 September, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed.

18. Licensing Sub-Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 18 January, 2016, be noted.

19. Home Office: Guidance on Licensing of Late Night Refreshment

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 5.1 – 5.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council) (*presented by the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager*).

Councillor T. Johnson arrived at the meeting during the consideration of this item.

Members considered the contents of the guidance document and were in agreement with the view of Officers that no changes were necessary to the Council's current position in respect of the licensing of late night refreshment.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the recent Home Office guidance on the licensing of late night refreshment be noted.
- (B) The proposal to not make any changes to the Council's current position in respect of the licensing of premises for late night refreshment be noted and supported.

20. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver, Vehicle and Operator Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 6.1 – 6.71 of the Official Minutes of the Council) (*presented by the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager*).

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager advised Members that it was originally intended to submit the Policy to Full Council on 6 April 2016 for approval, however submission was now going to be deferred to allow more time for consultation responses to be received and considered.

Members raised concern that the 'prohibition on wearing of headgear' had been removed from the Policy document, as this would potentially make it more difficult for passengers to identify who was driving the taxi and have a negative impact on passenger safety.

Officers advised that this prohibition had been removed by the Crown Court following a legal challenge against it which had been first submitted to the Magistrates' Court by representatives of the Taxi Trade.

Members then considered and discussed in turn consultation responses received from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and District Councillors (which had been submitted in advance of the meeting) and the Taxi Trade (which had been included as part of the meeting papers).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The consultation responses from Staffordshire County Council, District Councillors and the Taxi Trade be noted, and considered when the Policy is finalised.
- (B) It be noted that the finalised Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver, Vehicle and Operators Licensing Policy will be referred to the 6 July 2016 Full Council meeting for approval and adoption.

The meeting closed at 12:00pm

CHAIRMAN