

**Minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 13th October 2010
from 6.30 p.m. to 7.20 p.m.**

Present: Chris Hersey (Chairman)
Julian Thorpe (Vice-Chairman)

Andrew Brock*
Ian Dixon*
Kathleen Dumbovic
Bernard Gillbard

Paddy Henry*
Jane Keel
Graham Knight
Jacqui Landriani

Gordon Marples
Gary Marsh
Susan Ng*
Peter Reed
Robert Salisbury

* Absent

**12. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE – COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 4**

The Sub-Committee noted that no substitutes had been notified in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4 – Substitutes at Meetings of Committees etc.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Brock, Dixon, Henry and Ng.

14. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Declarations of Interest were made.

15. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th June 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. CHANGES TO TARIFF 2 FARES

The Committee considered an application from the Mid Sussex Taxi Association requesting changes to tariffs charged on certain days of the year and when carrying more than five passengers.

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Officer introduced the report and explained that the Association had requested that they be allowed to charge Tariff 2 fares on Easter Sunday and on any Sunday that is followed by a Bank Holiday in lieu. They had also requested that they be allowed to implement Tariff 2 where a multi-seat vehicle is transporting five or more passengers.

RESOLVED

That the Hackney Tariff be expanded to allow Tariff 2 charges to be made on those days meeting the criteria for the implementation of such charges.

17. TAXI LICENSING CHARTER

The Committee considered the draft Taxi Licensing Charter before going out for consultation with members of the trade.

The Environmental Health Manager introduced the report and informed the Committee that this was a first draft of the Charter. Some Members questioned the object of the Charter, as they thought it should also include a commitment to the public. There was general discussion concerning the service criteria in part 3 and whether it was achievable.

Members thought that the first draft Charter needed to be redrafted before going out to consultation, and made various suggestions to the Environmental Health Manager as to what should be included in the second draft. The revised draft could then be circulated to members of the Committee within two weeks for their comments. An amended draft, taking into account any comments received from members, could then be re-presented to the next Licensing Committee before going out to consultation with the Taxi Association.

The Legal Officer informed the Committee that she and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Officer were preparing a Licensing Policy covering all those aspects of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing, and within that Policy it would set down amongst other things a commitment for service standards designed to ensure the interests and safety of the Public. The Licensing Charter would form part of the Licensing Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Licensing Charter be redrafted and brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and approval.

18. MINUTES OF LIQUOR LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the meeting of Liquor Licensing Sub-Committees held on:-

12th July 2010;
21st July 2010;
5th August 2010; and
16th September 2010.

19. URGENT BUSINESS

[Note: The Chairman agreed to take this item as urgent business because of the need to feedback to the Committee issues raised at the previous meeting in relation to Wealden District Council licensing outside their District and the impact their licensing policy is having on Mid Sussex].

The Environmental Health Manager informed the Committee about the meeting between this Council and Wealden District Council on 14th September 2010, and what the latest position was. She informed the Committee that a response was awaited from Wealden District Council concerning a letter the Head of Housing, Health and Building Control had sent following the meeting. The Environmental Health Manager understood the non-response was probably as a result of a

restructure of their service, which they were undergoing at this time. Efforts would be made to obtain a reply to that letter.

She confirmed that a report would be made to this Committee once a response had been received from them.

Chairman.