

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 3 March, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Sears (**Chairman**)
Councillor C. Bott (**Vice-Chairman**)
Councillor Aftab
Councillor Anson
Councillor Barton
Councillor Beeley
Councillor P. Hughes
Councillor Mushtaq
Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor Wilkes

1245/10 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Clarke and Tweddle.

1246/10 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January, 2010, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1247/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1248/10 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

Sex Establishment Fees

The report of the Head of Public Safety was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Wilkes referred to the report and suggested that the fee levels should be set at £4,500 for the grant of a licence; £3,500 for the renewal of a licence and £2,500 for the transfer of a licence.

Steven Knapper stated that Sex Establishment Licences could prove to be extremely litigious and therefore changes levied must be seen to be reasonable. He added that the fees suggested in the report were reasonable and reflected the amount of work which needed to be undertaken in processing them. In the case of a transfer, the matter was referred to the West Midlands Police Licensing Unit only so the fee of £1,500 covered the costs involved.

Councillor Wilkes reported that he had suggested higher fees so that Sex Establishments could be policed more rigorously.

Councillor Rochelle felt that the transfer fee should remain at £2,000.

Councillor Hughes asked when the fee for Sex Establishment Licences had last been reviewed. Steven Knapper replied that they had last been reviewed in 2004.

Councillor Hughes felt that the fees for granting and renewing licences should be raised, whilst the fee for transfer should remain at £2,000.

Councillor Rochelle asked if the Local Authority was allowed to make a profit on Sex Establishment licensing fees. Mr. Knapper replied that the Local Authority could only cover its costs. He referred to the many conditions attached to a Sex Establishment Licence and indicated that to police them more rigorously would increase costs considerably.

Councillor Sarohi felt that the fee levels set out in the report should be supported.

Councillor Anson referred to the fact that Walsall had only two Sex Establishments. He felt that this was sufficient and that Walsall's fees should at least be on a par with other neighbouring local authorities.

Councillor Barton asked how often Sex Establishment Licences were renewed. Mr. Knapper replied that they were renewed annually.

It was then **moved** and **seconded**:-

That the fee for the granting of a Sex Establishment Licence be set at £4,500 and resolved accordingly.

It was then **moved** and **seconded**:-

That the fee for the renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence be set at £2,500 and resolved accordingly.

(Seven Members voting in favour and four Members voting against).

It was then **moved** and **seconded**:-

That the fee for the transfer of a Sex Establishment Licence be set at £1,500 and resolved accordingly.

(Seven Members voting in favour and four Members voting against).

1250/10 **Private Session**

Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That, during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Committee considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), and accordingly resolves to consider that item in private session.

Summary of item considered in Private Session

1251/10 **Application for a hackney carriage proprietors licence – Mr. M. J.**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Public Safety regarding this matter and agreed to grant a hackney carriage proprietor's licence to the applicant.

(Exempt information by virtue of Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.57 p.m.

Chairman

Date