

Licensing and Safety Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31 May 2022 in the in a Conference Room at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall at 6.00pm.

Present:

- Councillor Gandham (Chair)
- Councillor Sears (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Bains
- Councillor C. Bott
- Councillor Cooper
- Councillor Harrison
- Councillor A. Hussain
- Councillor K. Hussain
- Councillor P. Kaur
- Councillor Nawaz
- Councillor S. Nasreen
- Councillor W. Rasab
- Councillor Samra
- Vacancy

In Attendance: Mr P. Gordon, Director Resilient Communities
Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

1/22 Welcome

Councillor Gandham welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Municipal Year Introductions took place and a quorum of members present in-person was established.

2/22 Change of Membership

The following change in membership was noted:
Councillor W. Rasab for Councillor G. Clarke.

3/22 Apologies

There were no apologies

4/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

5/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

6/22 Establishment of a Licensing sub-Committee

A report was submitted which sought approval to establish a licensing sub-committee to determine applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005

(see annexed)

Resolved

- 1) That a Licensing Sub-Committee be established for the 2022/23 municipal year in accordance with Section 9 of the Licensing Act, 2003 to determine applications under that legislation in circumstances set out in appendix 1 attached to the report and under the Gambling Act 2005 in the circumstances detailed in Appendix 2 attached to the report.
- 2) That membership of the sub-committee shall comprise three members of the Licensing and Safety Committee on a rota basis, subject to availability.
- 3) That the Chair of the sub-committee shall be appointed at each meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee
- 4) That the Director of Resilient Communities be authorised to determine applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 , in the circumstances identified in appendix 1 and 2 attached to the report.

7/22 Establishment of Taxi Licensing Sub-Committees

A report was submitted which sought approval to establish two taxi Licensing sub-committees and to appoint members thereto.

(see annexed)

In response to a question from members in relation to the need for such sub-committees, the Democratic Services officer explained that it was at the discretion of the committee to decide if it wished to appoint the sub-committees however, the committee was recommended to appoint at least one sub-committee for the following reasons:

- As the sub-committees were hearings they needed to have regard to natural justice and fairness so should limit the number of late evening hearings for example, some applicants may wish to bring legal representatives which would attract premium rates in the evening.
- Applicants would have to sit in front of the full 14 member committee which they may find daunting.
- It gives flexibility to call hearings at short notice to deal with matters needing a speedy determination.

It was Moved by Councillor Gandham, Seconded by Councillor Samra and

Resolved (unanimous)

- 1) That Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee 'A' and Taxi Licensing Sub-committee 'B' be established to deal with taxi licensing applications under the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the 2022/23 municipal year
- 2) That, by convention, 7 members of the Licensing and Safety Committee be appointed to each of the sub committees in accordance with political balance regulations as follows:
 - 4 Conservative Councillors
 - 3 Labour Councillors
- 3) That a chair and vice-chair be nominated to each sub-committee
- 4) To note that Taxi Licensing Sub Committee 'A' shall convene at 10.00 a.m. and that Taxi Licensing Sub Committee 'B' shall convene at 6.00 p.m.

In accordance with Resolution (2) above:

Members were nominated and appointed as follows:

Taxi 'A'

Councillors Bains, Cooper, Harrison, K Hussain, Nasreen, Nawaz, Samra

Taxi 'B'

Councillors C. Bott, A Hussain, Nasreen, Nawaz, Rasab, Kaur

In accordance with Resolution (3) above:

The Chair of each sub-committee was nominated and appointed as follows:

Taxi 'A'

Councillor Cooper – 6 members voting in favour

Councillor Harrison – 2 members voting in favour

Councillor Cooper appointed

Taxi 'B'

Councillor Rasab – 6 members voting in favour

Councillor Sears – 2 members voting in favour

Councillor Rasab appointed

No appointments were made as vice-chairs at this meeting.

A report was submitted which sought approval to establish the Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That a taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group be established in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the appendix to the report and that all members of the Licensing and Safety Committee be appointed thereto.

The Meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.

Chair:

Date: