

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19th October, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Sears (Chairman)
Councillor Clarke (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Anson
Councillor Carpenter
Councillor Cook
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Murray
Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor Wilkes

1381/11 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barton, Burley, Harrison and Russell.

1382/11 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September, 2011, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1383/11 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1384/11 **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 agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

1385/11 **Walsall Football Club (Ltd) Stadium Safety Advisory Group**

The report of the Interim Regulatory Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Trading Standards Officer (Mr. Beavon) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Committee. He indicated that there were no problems requiring amendment to the sports ground conditions. He added that the management of the ground was very pro-active when it came to the safety of individuals. Referring to Paragraph 4.3, Mr. Beavon reported that spectator interventions had reduced and most of the people thrown out of the ground had been evicted for smoking. He requested the Committee to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Anson referred to the table regarding attendance at matches and to the fact that the number of stewards policing the games had reduced from 85 in 2007/08 to 77.2 in 2010/11. Mr. Beavon replied that this took into account the fact that the number of supporters attending matches had also fallen.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

1386/11 **Letter from Walsall Private Hire Association Re: Amendments to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Conditions**

A copy of a letter dated 21st September, 2011 from the Walsall Private Hire Association was submitted:-

(see annexed)

A further letter dated 19th October, 2011 jointly written by Mr. M. Khalid (Walsall Hackney Carriage Association) and Mr. K. Hussain (Walsall Private Hire Association) was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Sears suggested that the letters should be referred to the Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group for consideration in the first instance.

Councillor Rochelle pointed out that all the matters referred to in the letters from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Associations had already been discussed at the Liaison Group. He added that the trade was being badly affected by the recession.

Councillor Sears referred to the fact that the letter dated 19th October, 2011 had been handed to Members before the start of the meeting leaving little time for the Committee to peruse it. He felt that consideration of its contents should be deferred to enable officers to produce a report and obtain the views of the garage management on the request for amendments to the MOT testing regime and charging policy.

Resolved

That consideration of the letters from the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Associations be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to enable officers to prepare a report on the contents and a representative from the garage be invited to attend the next meeting to respond to the questions regarding MOT testing.

1387/11 **Private Session**

Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That, during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Committee considers that the items for consideration are exempt information for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 and accordingly resolves to consider those items in private.

Summary of items considered in private session

1388/11 **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 - Application for Discrete Plates/Identification Stickers on Private Hire Vehicle**

The application. for discrete private hire plates was granted.

1389/11 **Application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence**

The Committee permitted the application and that a report on a standard for tinted glass in vehicles be submitted to the next meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee.

1390/11 **Complaint by Licensed Driver**

The meeting became inquorate and were unable to make a decision on the matter

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.