

MINUTES OF LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present:

Councillor Hutton (in the Chair)

Councillors

Baker	Collett	Hunter	Roberts
Mrs Callow JP	Critchley	Matthews	D Scott
G Coleman	Farrell	O'Hara	Wilshaw

In Attendance:

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager
Sharon Davies, Senior Licensing Solicitor
Lee Petrak, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2020

The Licensing Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2020.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 6 August 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Licensing Committee considered, following changes to the membership of the Licensing Committee and the resignation of Councillor Rick Scott as Vice-Chairman of the Public Protection Sub-Committee, the appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee and of the Public Protection Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

1. To note the changes in membership of the Licensing Committee and Public Protection Sub-Committee.
2. To appoint Councillor Danny Scott as Vice -Chairman of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of Municipal Year 2020/2021.
3. To appoint Councillor Danny Scott as Vice-Chairman of the Public Protection Sub-Committee for the remainder of Municipal Year 2020/2021.

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4 PAVEMENT LICENCES

The Licensing Committee considered the issue of the level of fees for Pavement Licences. The Committee had previously considered the issue at its last meeting on 6 August 2020, where it had approved the Pavement Licence policy. Subsequent to that meeting, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change had agreed a Cabinet Member decision to waive the Street Café Licence fee and replace it with a £25 administration fee to help and support small businesses within Blackpool. The Committee in setting the fee level was not aware that the decision to waive Street Café Licensing fee would be made. The Committee noted that if the previously set fee continued then there would be a discrepancy between the fee charged for a Pavement Licence and that for Street Café Licence so agreed to revisit the issue.

The Committee discussed the fee and agreed that it wished to amend its previous decision to ensure consistency with the Street Café Street Licence and to support businesses affected by Coronavirus.

Resolved:

1. To set aside decision of the Licensing Committee on 6 August 2020, to set the fee for Pavement Licences at £100.
2. To set the fee for applications for Pavement Licences at the same nominal £25 administration fee as the Street Café Licences fee.
3. To refund any fees already paid for Pavement Licences or reapply them to other licence fees.
4. To refer the fees to the relevant Cabinet Member for future review along with other Licensing fees as part of the budget setting process in 2021, to ensure similar considerations are using in reviewing the Pavement Licence fee and Street Café Licence fee in future.

5 LICENSING SERVICE UPDATE

The Licensing Committee received an update on the details of licences applied for, dealt with and appealed in the period 14 February 2020 to 10 September 2020.

Mrs Sharon Davies, Senior Solicitor, highlighted to the Committee details of the ten Premises Licences granted administratively as no objections had been received, the one application considered by the Licensing Panel, that no reviews of Premises Licences had been undertaken and no Pavement Licences had yet been granted. Mrs Davies further highlighted that there were two appeals pending before the Magistrates Court by objectors against the grant of variations of Premises Licences.

Resolved:

To note the update on licences considered, dealt with and appealed.

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6 LICENSING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Licensing Committee received an update on enforcement activities from Mr Lee Petrak, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager. Mr Petrak explained that enforcement work had been undertaken in a number of different ways since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. The initial phase had been focussed on the enforcing the Coronavirus Business Closure Regulations. Once premises had begun to be permitted to reopen, enforcement had been shifted to ensuring adherence to the new rules but with an emphasis on educating premises on how to operate safely. The number of visits had been increased with this approach in mind.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr Petrak, highlighted his view that compliance from licensed premises had broadly been good. He did express a concern about changes in opening hours and particularly if neighbouring areas had more restrictive controls with the potential for customers entering Blackpool later in the evening.

Resolved:

To note the update on licensing enforcement.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.25 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lennox Beattie Executive and Regulatory Manager
Tel: 01253 477157
E-mail: lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk