

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Adur Licensing Committee
5 October 2022
at 6.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor Paul Mansfield (Chairman)
Councillor Vee Barton (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Rob Wilkinson
Councillor Robina Baine
Councillor Tony Bellasis
*Councillor Jim Funnell
*Councillor Catherine Arnold

Councillor Gabe Crisp
Councillor Julia Watts
Councillor Jude Harvey
*Councillor Mandy Buxton

*Absent

Officers: Licensing Officer (Team Leader) Public Health & Regulation, Licensing Officer, Public Health & Regulation, Senior Lawyer and Democratic Services Officer.

ADC - LC/6/22-23 Declaration of Interests / Substitute Members

There were no declarations of interest.

There were no substitute members.

ADC - LC/7/22-23 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

ADC - LC/8/22-23 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the 20 June 2022 be approved as the correct record.

ADC - LC/9/22-23 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

ADC - LC/10/22-23 Proposed Increase in the Taxi Tariff

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all members. A copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 5. Members were requested to consider an application received from Adur Hackney Carriage proprietors for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Tariff. The Licensing Officer introduced the report to the Committee and answered questions to clarify what changes of tariff would mean and verified that significant Members of the trade had supported the proposed increase.

Members posed a question as to whether the increased tariff would apply to all Hackney Carriage Drivers or just those who had supported the proposal. Officers clarified that the tariff would apply to the whole Hackney trade although no driver was under obligation to charge the maximum amount prescribed by the tariff.

A motion was proposed to approve the new tariff. This was seconded and voted in favour of unanimously.

ADC - LC/11/22-23 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting from the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act indicated against the item.

ADC - LC/12/22-23 Taxi Handbook Condition - Individual Exemption Application

Before the Sub-Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 3.

The Committee carried out the procedure before it.

The committee adjourned to make a decision and reconvened to announce the decision.

Decision: not to grant an exemption.

Reasons for Decision: The Committee has listened carefully but has not heard any evidence as to why this particular vehicle should be under any different conditions as to all other private hire vehicles in the District. The reasons that were given at the hearing were that the screen was lit and allowed people to see in and know it was a private hire vehicle and that it would glare on the windscreen. This point was discussed at length and the committee heard that there was a screen that was capable of being dimmed or switched off at the driver's discretion. There were already markings that showed this was a private hire vehicle and there was no requirement for the screen to be showing images.

The overriding protection of the committee is safety of the public and there was no evidence to persuade the Committee that this vehicle should be exempt.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

Chair