

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Worthing Licensing and Control Committee
27 November 2023
at 6.30 pm**

*Councillor Henna Chowdhury (Chair)
Councillor Richard Mulholland (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Helen Abrahams	Councillor Kevin Jenkins
Councillor Mike Barrett	Councillor Dale Overton
*Councillor Russ Cochran	Councillor Hilary Schan
*Councillor Dan Coxhill	*Councillor Sam Theodoridi
Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies	*Councillor Andy Whight
Councillor Claire Hunt	*Councillor Rosey Whorlow
Councillor Charles James	

***Absent**

In Councillor Chowdhury's absence Councillor Mulholland chaired the meeting

LCC/7/23-24 Declarations of Interest / Substitute Members

There were no declarations of interest.
There were no substitute members.

LCC/8/23-24 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

LCC/9/23-24 Members Questions

There were no questions from Members.

LCC/10/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the committee meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 18 September 2023 and the Licensing Sub Committees on 5 September 2023, 13 September 2023, 18 October 2023 and 7 November 2023 be approved as the correct record.

LCC/11/23-24 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

LCC/12/23-24 Re-adoption of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all members.

The Officer presented the report explaining that a routine review of the service had brought to light that the original paperwork, proving the adoption of the Act, was incomplete. Due to this, it had been brought to committee to obtain Members agreement to re-adopt the policy.

A Member advocated that this information should be shared with the Taxi trade. Officers explained that this could be done but would incur an additional cost. Members considered that in the current economic climate any unnecessary additional cost was ill advised. A proposal was put forward to agree to the recommendations with an additional proviso that the Taxi Trade be informed separately. This proposal was not seconded and as a result taken no further.

A proposal was put forward to accept the Officers recommendations, and readopt the policy. This was seconded and voted in favour of, with a unanimous outcome.

Resolved: That the Licensing Committee approves the passing of a resolution to adopt, to the extent they are not already in force, the provisions of Part II of the 1976 Act in relation to the whole borough and that adoption of Part II of the 1976 Act shall come into effect on 1 February 2024, this being a date not less than one-month after the day the resolution is passed.

LCC/13/23-24 Approval of Licensing Fees 2024/25

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all members.

The Officer explained the rationale used to set the new fees and clarified for Members why some figures were surplus and some were deficit.

With regards to the Taxi fees, Members enquired if the rise in costs would result in higher fares for the passengers. The Officer clarified that the Hackney Carriage fare tariff was set by the Council and it dictated the maximum fare that could be charged. The Hackney Carriage Driver's had latitude to charge less if they wished. The Private Hire tariff was not under the control of the Council so were at liberty to set their own fees.

Members enquired as to why, with regards to Street Trading licences, some areas' rise in fees were significantly higher than others. The Officer clarified that certain areas, such as the sea front areas, generated considerably more administration work, due to those areas generating greater income for the traders who were sited there, and this was represented in the fees.

A member enquired why the Foreshores and Concessions Team charges for sea front sites were so much higher than the Councils. The Officer explained that Concessions were not controlled by the same legislation as licences and they are effectively a permit to use Council land to trade on. Street trading requires a licence and legislation dictates that the Council are bound to charge only what costs are incurred in producing that licence and are unable to make a profit.

A proposal was put forward to accept the Officers recommendations, and approve the scale of licensing fees proposed. This was seconded and voted in favour of, with a unanimous outcome.

Resolved: To approve the scale of licensing fees proposed within Appendix 1 to apply from 1 April 2024. In addition, should representations be received following the Council placing a notice in a local newspaper setting out the changes to the vehicle and operator fees and inviting representations on those changes within 28 days then these will be considered by the Public Health and Regulation Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.59 pm

Chair