

Minutes of the meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 5.34 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S B Blair (Vice-Chair in the Chair)

Councillors: D G Beaney
P M Brivio
D G Cronk
M F Hibbert
S C Manion
D P Murphy
S B Blair
J P Loffman
D J Parks
O C de R Richardson

Officers: Licensing Manager
Democratic Services Officer

8 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M W Moorhouse and M P Porter.

9 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members appointed.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D G Beaney declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 13 by reason that he was the joint owner of The Crown Inn public house, Finglesham and would leave the meeting for consideration of the item.

Councillor O C de R Richardson declared an Other Significant Interest in agenda item 13 by reason that his son was the owner of The Elephant and Hind public house, Dover and would leave the meeting for consideration of the item.

11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2023 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Vice-Chairman.

12 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committees held on 3 March, 26 April, 2 May, 20 June and 21 July 2023 were received by the Committee.

13 FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25

Members considered the Fees and Charges 2024/25 report of the Head of Legal and Licensing and presented by the Licensing Manager which set out the fees and charges for the financial year 2024/25 relevant to the Licensing Authority. The Licensing Act fees were set by Government and the fees set under the Gambling Act were capped by Government and set within the guidelines.

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That the Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 3 be APPROVED.
 - (b) That Members approved the general principle that fees are set at an appropriate inclusive level, irrespective of VAT status, and that the VAT element within the overall fee level is then determined.
 - (c) That Members approve the general principle that, unless the fee is set by statute, licensing fees will be set on a cost recovery basis.
 - (d) That the Head of Legal and Licensing be authorised to adopt fees at, or close to government directed levels without the need for further reporting, in cases where the Council is awaiting Government guidance and it has not been possible to set a fee level at this stage.
 - (e) That the Head of Legal and Licensing be authorised in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Environmental Services and the Strategic Director (Corporate and Regulatory) to make minor adjustments to the fees and charges as necessary.

The meeting ended at 5.37 pm.