

Minutes of the meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 16 October 2024 at 5.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S Hill

Councillors: D G Cronk
M Bates
D G Beaney
P M Brivio
Cowan
M F Hibbert
J P Loffman
M P Porter
O C de R Richardson

Officers: Licensing Manager
Democratic Services Officer

15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S B Blair and D J Parks.

16 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members appointed.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D G Beaney declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 5 (Minute No.19) 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 M Bates declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 5 (Minute No.19) by reason that his was employed as an internal auditor for a chain of hotels in the district and would leave the meeting for consideration of the item.

Councillor O C de R Richardson declared an Other Significant Interest in agenda item 5 (Minute No.19) 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.

18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

19 FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26

Members were presented with the Fees and Charges 2025/26 report of the Head of Legal and Licensing and presented by the Licensing Manager.

It was a requirement of the Council's constitution to review the fees and charges annually and to produce recommended levels for the financial year. Members were

advised that the Licensing Act fees and charges were all set centrally by government and that in addition, the Gambling Act fees and charges were capped by government, and which had been set at the top of the limit.

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That the Fees and Charges for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 3 be APPROVED.
 - (b) That Members approve 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 case 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 5.34 pm.