

SWT Licensing Committee - 15 June 2020

Present: Councillors Marcus Barr, Paul Bolton, Simon Coles, Caroline Ellis, Andrew Hadley, John Hassall, Marcia Hill, Sue Lees, Libby Lisgo, Mark Lithgow, Janet Lloyd, Martin Peters, Anthony Trollope-Bellew and Ray Tully

Officers: Clare Rendell, John Rendell and Amy Tregellas

Also Present: Councillors Chris Booth, Federica Smith-Roberts, Sarah Wakefield and Loretta Whetlor

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

1. **Appointment of Chair**

Resolved that Councillor Mark Lithgow be appointed as Chair of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillors thanked Councillor Kelley Durdan for all her hard work as the previous Chair of the Licensing Committee.

2. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Resolved that Councillor Janet Lloyd be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3. **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Licensing Committee**

(Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 9 March 2020 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 9 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr M Barr	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted

Cllr P Bolton	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Booth	All Items	Wellington and Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Ellis	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr Mrs Hill	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Lithgow	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington & Sampford Arundel	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Peters	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith-Roberts	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke
Cllr R Tully	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke

6. Public Participation

No members of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

7. Licensing Quarterly Update Report

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors queried how many dog litters a breeder had to have before they were required to be licensed.
The Licensing Specialist advised that he thought it was three litters within a twelve month period or if they had a litter as part of a business activity, but he would check and report back to the Committee.
- Councillors queried what had the overall impact been of the covid pandemic on the taxi trade.
The Licensing Specialist advised that it was difficult to tell, he had seen how quiet the taxi rank located on Corporation Street had been and that it had been hard on the taxi trade. He felt their frustration to get back to work, but some drivers were in the vulnerable category so had to shield and were unable to work. He also sadly recognised that the business was not there due to the town centre being closed. He did not have any specific numbers, but believed the impact had been hugely significant. Some taxi drivers were looking to install screens in their vehicles and they

would be guided by Somerset County Council. He agreed that action was needed to assist the taxi trade to return to business.

- Councillors queried the rules on data protection and whether the premises licence holder's details had to be published in the public domain and whether that was compliant with the data protection rules.

The Licensing Specialist advised that two documents were issued to licence holders. One had the full details written on it, which was to be kept for their records and the other was a summary, which was the document to be displayed as that would not include their details.

- Councillors queried how far officers had got with the work to amalgamate the previous councils taxi policies.

The Licensing Specialist advised that sadly no progress had been made due to the covid pandemic and that he had also been involved in other work which included large scale complaints. The work was still high on the list of priorities of work to be completed.

Resolved that the Licensing Committee noted the report.

(The Meeting ended at 6.37 pm)

