

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held at the District Offices, Dunstable, on 3 December 2008.

Present:

Councillors:

Bowater
Janes
Mrs Meakins (Chairman)
Swain (sub for Mrs Gilchrist)

Councillors:

Mrs Coleman (sub for Hogan)
Mrs Ledster
Shingler
Warren

Officers attending: Mr Dunleavy, Mr Ronan, Mrs James and Mrs Hulks

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 September 2008 as a correct record and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

32. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

33. REQUEST TO INCREASE HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Members received a report that informed them of a proposal to increase Hackney Carriage fares that had been declined at the meeting on 10 September. Included in the report was a further proposal for increasing the fares and aligning them with those of Mid Bedfordshire.

This proposal had been suggested at the September meeting, but could not be considered at that time as details had to be sent to the trade for consultation.

Consultation had resulted in one letter in support from the trade. There had been no comment made by members of the public.

Members were advised that there would a period of one year from Vesting day for Central Bedfordshire to align terms and conditions of the trade and that it therefore seemed sensible to take this opportunity to make changes that could, in time, be inevitable.

It was noted that the points previously raised about the cost of fuel impacting on the requirement for a fares increase did not necessarily still apply, but other costs had increased and these supported the request.

Advice was given that there was already a requirement in statute to increase fares by the Retail Price Index in January each year and Members therefore

needed to be aware that not accepting the proposal did not mean that fares would not increase.

An amendment to the report was put forward which stated that, if Members agreed the changes, these should be implemented from 2 January 2009, not the day following the meeting, as shown in the report.

RESOLVED to approve an application to increase Hackney Carriage fares to bring them in line with those currently used by Hackney Carriages in Mid Bedfordshire, effective from 2 January 2009.

CHAIRMAN