

General Licensing Committee Agenda



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A meeting of the

General Licensing Committee

will be held on Wednesday 17 May 2017 ON THE RISING OF THE PRECEDING MEETING OF THE LICENSING ACTS COMMITTEE

The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

Members of the Committee:

To be confirmed at the annual meeting of Council on 17 May 2017

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed", written in a cursive style.

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda

Open to the public including the press

Council's vision

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 4 - 6)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the General Licensing Committee minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2017 (attached).

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6. Appointment of taxi panels

Purpose: to agree the appointment of sub-committees to consider matters under the Taxi Licensing Policy.

RECOMMENDATION to:

- appoint sub-committees comprising any three members of the General Licensing Committee;
- agree that the sub-committees be known as taxi licensing panels;
- appoint each member of the General Licensing Committee to serve on any taxi licensing panel which is convened so as to include her or him in its membership,

subject to her or him having attended appropriate training in the last 12 months;

- authorise each taxi licensing panel to discharge all functions relating to matters referred to the committee or to its sub-committees under the Taxi Licensing Policy;
- agree that, wherever possible, applications should be heard by a panel comprising the chairman or vice-chairman of the committee plus two other members of the committee, but that this should not affect the principle that any three members of the committee will constitute a properly appointed panel;
- authorise the head of legal and democratic services to invite an appropriate panel to conduct a scheduled hearing having regard to members' availability and eligibility to take part and ensuring that as far as possible all members of the committee have the opportunity to conduct hearings.

Minutes

of a meeting of the

General Licensing Committee

held on Wednesday 8 March 2017 at 2.00 pm
at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Eric Batts, Margaret Crick, StJohn Dickson, Robert Hall, Jenny Hannaby, Dudley Hoddinott, Chris McCarthy, Julia Reynolds and Reg Waite

Officers: Steve Culliford, Robert Draper and Ian Price

Number of members of the public: Nil

GL.4 Election of chairman for the remainder of the municipal year

Following Council's adoption of a new constitution, the committee noted that from 1 March 2017 no member of the Cabinet, nor the chairman or the vice-chairman of Council, could act as chairman or vice-chairman of the General Licensing Committee. The committee was therefore asked to elect a new chairman for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year to replace Councillor Charlotte Dickson, who was a Cabinet member.

RESOLVED: to elect Councillor StJohn Dickson as chairman of the General Licensing Committee for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year.

GL.5 Apologies for absence

Councillors Mike Badcock, Yvonne Constance and Charlotte Dickson had all sent their apologies for absence.

GL.6 Appointment of vice-chairman for the remainder of the municipal year

Following Council's adoption of a new constitution, the committee noted that from 1 March 2017 no member of the Cabinet, nor the chairman or the vice-chairman of Council, could act as chairman or vice-chairman of the General Licensing Committee. The committee was therefore asked to elect a new vice-chairman for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year to replace Councillor Mike Badcock, who was Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: to elect Councillor Julia Reynolds as vice-chairman of the General Licensing Committee for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year.

Vale of White Horse District Council – General Licensing Committee minutes

GL.7 Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the General Licensing Committee's minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 and agree that the chairman signs them as a correct record.

GL.8 Declarations of interest

None

GL.9 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None

GL.10 Public participation

None

GL.11 Street trading policy

The committee considered the head of legal and democratic services' report.

In 2014 the council adopted the current street trading policy to designate all streets as 'consent streets' under Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The new policy had been effective and welcomed by street traders and the public, and there had not been any complaints about street traders since the new policy was introduced. However, it had since been discovered that the original work on the designation of streets had not designated all streets as consent streets.

The committee noted that a consent street designation meant that street trading could only take place if the council gave consent. 'Prohibited streets' were streets where no street trading could take place. Although there were no prohibited streets within the district, the A34 was designated as a trunk road and the A420 was a primary route. Oxfordshire County Council's Highways department did not support any street trading applications for lay-bys or slip roads along the A34 or A420. The council also had some 'unspecified streets' where they had not been designated as 'consent' or 'prohibited' streets.

The committee noted that the council had previously adopted Schedule 4 of the Act, which gave it power to designate streets as consent streets. The officer reported that if the committee agreed to this designation, it would cover all streets in the district, including new streets and developments as they were built. In answer to a question, the committee noted that ice cream and sandwich sellers were required to obtain a street trading licence. Street trading consents lasted for one year. There were currently 18 street traders consented in the Vale.

The committee considered that confirming the policy to designate all streets as 'consent streets' would bring consistency across the district and would be more efficient in terms of licensing street trading administration and enforcement.

The committee agreed a draft resolution, that with effect from 17 July 2017 for the purposes of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 all streets within the district shall be designated as consent streets for the purposes of street trading. This resolution would be subject to a 28 day public consultation. Officers would then consider the consultation responses and come back to the committee in due course. The committee might then pass the formal resolution for approval and publication, confirming the designation of streets within the district.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) pass a draft resolution for public consultation under Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, to designate all streets within the district as 'consent streets' for the purposes of street trading; and
- (b) authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make any further minor editorial changes to the resolution in (a) above and advertise the proposed draft resolution for public consultation.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm.