

Minutes

of a meeting of the

General Licensing Committee



held on Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 6.15 pm in Meeting Room 1, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE

Open to the public, including the press

Present in the meeting room:

Councillors: Ron Batstone (Chair), Patrick O'Leary (Vice-Chair), Kiera Bentley, Andrew Skinner, and Bethia Thomas

Officers: Darius Zarazel (Democratic Services Officer)

GL1 Chair's announcements

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedure to be followed and advised on emergency evacuation arrangements.

GL2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lucy Edwards, Oliver Forder, Paul Barrow, Cheryl Briggs, Neil Fawcett, Diana Lugova, and Val Shaw.

GL3 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2024 as a correct record and agree that the Chair sign these as such.

GL4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

GL5 Urgent business

There was no urgent business.

GL6 Public participation

There were no registered speakers.

GL7 Appointment of Taxi Panels

The committee considered a proposal to appoint sub-committees, agreed to be referred to as licensing panels, to consider matters under the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy.

RESOLVED: to

1. appoint sub-committees comprising any three members of the General Licensing Committee;
2. agree that the sub-committees be known as taxi licensing panels;
3. appoint each member of the General Licensing Committee to serve on any taxi licensing panel which is convened so as to include them in its membership, subject to them having attended appropriate training in the last 12 months;
4. 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;
5. agree that, wherever possible, applications should be heard by a panel comprising the chair or vice-chair 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;
6. authorise the head of legal and democratic 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.

GL8 Appointment of General Licensing Panels

The committee considered a proposal to appoint sub-committees, agreed to be referred to as licensing panels, to consider individual cases of general licensing matters under the committee's remit for contaminated land, air quality, health and safety, street trading and street naming.

RESOLVED: to

1. appoint sub-committees comprising any three members of the General Licensing Committee;
2. agree that the sub-committees be known as general licensing panels;
3. appoint each member of the General Licensing Committee to serve on any general licensing panel which is convened so as to include them in its membership;
4. authorise each general licensing panel to discharge all functions relating to matters referred to the committee or to its sub-committees, other than under the Taxi Licensing Policy;

5. agree that, wherever possible, applications should be heard by a panel comprising the chair or vice-chair 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;
6. authorise the head of legal and democratic 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.

The meeting closed at 6.18 pm