

LICENSING COMMITTEE

10 March 2009 at 10.00 am

MEMBERS: Councillor Sue Stears (Chair), Councillor Roger Roberts (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sheila Andrews, Richard Bailey, Joan Hartfield, Janet Lowne, Jonathan Pritchard, Tony Shields, Roger Thistle and Peter Wallis.

ABSENT: Councillors Margaret Ali, Margaret Court, Tim Crowley, Barry Russell and Graham Whitham.

237. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2008 were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

238. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE FEES

The Chair directed that this matter be brought forward as an urgent item to enable revised fees to be introduced from the beginning of the 2009/10 financial year.

By Minute 422(b)/07 a schedule of fees that could be levied under the Gambling Act 2005 had been approved. Statutory regulations permitted the level of fees to recover only the Council's costs. A time recording system had therefore been introduced so that fees could be set at a level that would ensure the Council recovered the full costs of processing applications, providing advice to applicants, conducting inspections, enforcement work and holding hearings. The provisions of the Act had been in operation for one year and the fees had therefore been reviewed to ensure that they recovered the Council's full costs, and that there was no subsidy by Council Tax payers.

A schedule of revised proposed fees was submitted. Some fees, namely those for family entertainment centres and betting track premises, would remain unchanged because there had not been any applications within those fee categories to permit the accurate assessment of the Council's costs. The proposed fees would ensure that cost recovery was achieved and would be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that remained the case.

Resolved: That the proposed premises licence fees, set out in the Appendix to these Minutes, be adopted with effect from the beginning of the 2009/10 financial year.

The meeting ended at 10.09 am

Chair:
Date:

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