

LICENSING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 15 MARCH 2018

PRESENT:- Councillors Vera Tomlinson (Chair), Alan Bishop, Paul Dixon, Steph Exell, Nick Martin, Derique Montaut, Carol Shelley, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Vera Tomlinson, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Emma Faramarzi and Colin Lovell.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abdul Amin and Eric Shaw.

31. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

32. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2018, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

33. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

34. Consideration of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers Medical Requirements

The Council's Licensing Manager submitted a report setting out proposed amendments to the Council's current Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing policy in respect of Medical Examination Certificates.

Resolved – (1) That the Council's current Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing policy in respect of Medical Examination Certificates be amended to read "The Group 2 Medical Examination be completed by the applicant's own General Practitioner (GP) or another GP in the same practice, or a GP in another practice, provided they have access to the applicants' full National Health Service records at the time of the examination."

(2) That the Council's Licensing Manager continue to be authorised to refuse to licence any Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver who does not meet the Council's policy on medical examinations as set out in the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing policy.

35. Introduction of a Dog Walking Registration Scheme

The Council's Licensing Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the adoption of a Code of Conduct for Commercial Dog Walkers in Swindon following a consultation exercise approved the Committee (Minute 14 refers).

Resolved - (1) That, further to (2) and the amendments set out in (3) below, the Code of Conduct for Commercial Dog Walkers be endorsed and commended to Council for adoption.

(2) That the fee to registration under the Council's Code of Conduct for

Commercial Dog Walkers in Swindon be set at £50 per annum and that this fee be reviewed on an annual basis.

(3) That the Code of Conduct for Commercial Dog Walkers in Swindon be amended as follows:

(i) That paragraph 5 be amended to read “Only exercise up to a maximum of four dogs at any one time and that only a maximum of two dogs be permitted off their leads at any one time”; and

(ii) That paragraph 3 be amended to read: “Take extra care when arriving and leaving parks and green spaces to minimise issues for other users. All dogs should be walked away from and returned to a suitably secured fit for purpose vehicle on a lead”.

(4) That the Council’s Licensing Manager be requested to investigate how compliance with the Code of Conduct may be monitored effectively and report back to this Committee how this might be best achieved together with any financial implications arising therefrom.

(Councillors Emma Faramarzi and Carol Shelley requested that their abstention from the vote in respect of (2) be recorded.)