

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held in a virtual environment on 21st July 2020.

Present:

Councillors S Gaskin (Chairman), Mrs P L Ackroyd, Mrs B Ashcroft, R Faulkner, D Fletcher, H Hall, Ms A Legg, Mrs S McGarry, C Sylvester, Mrs B Toon and C Wileman.

Officers Present:

Mark Rizk (Head of Service), Mrs A Wakefield (Solicitor and Monitoring Officer), Mrs M Wooley (Licensing and Enforcement Manager), Mr C Liddle (Licensing Officer) and Mrs M Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Allen.

33/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

34/20 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business brought forward to the meeting under Rule 12.

35/20 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th May 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

36/20 **EXTENSION OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES FOLLOWING COVID 19**

At the last meeting of the Licensing Committee on 19th May 2020 Members were requested to consider a request from the Burton Taxi Trade to extend the licences of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles following issues brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic. Currently vehicle licences are issued for one year. Private Hire vehicles are allowed to be licensed until they are 7 years old, and Hackney Carriages may be licensed until they are 10 years old.

The taxi trade had reported that following the recent COVID 19 pandemic, most vehicles are unable to earn a living and are living off their savings. They put forward proposals in the report to enable them to carry on earning a living once the pandemic is over and save to buy a vehicle in 2021.

At that meeting Members resolved that the private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences, detailed at 3.9 in the report, covering the time of the pandemic lockdown, be extended for a period of 4 months from 9th May 2020 and that it would be reviewed at the end of that period.

The Enforcement Manager updated Members on the current situation and requested that Members gave consideration to a further extension to the 19th September 2020 or beyond that time.

Resolved:

Members decided to extend the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences following COVID-19 until 19th September 2020.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motions	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor Mrs B Ashcroft		
Councillor R Faulkner		
Councillor D Fletcher		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor Ms A Legg		
Councillor S McGarry		
Councillor C Sylvester		
Councillor Mrs B Toon		
Councillor C Wileman		

Chairman