

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17 August 2021

PRESENT – Councillors B Jones (Chair), Clarke, Dulston, Lee, Newall, K Nicholson and Snedker

APOLOGIES – Councillors Crumbie, Donoghue, C L B Hughes, Mills and A J Scott,

ABSENT – Councillors Haszeldine

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Amy Wennington (Principal Lawyer (Litigation)) and Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager)

LG1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

RESOLVED – That Councillor B Jones be appointed Chair of the General Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

LG2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

RESOLVED – That Councillor Lee be appointed Vice Chair of the General Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

LG3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

LG4 TO APPROVE THE TIME OF MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22 ON THE DATES AGREED IN CALENDAR BY CABINET AT MINUTE C97/FEB/21

RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 a.m

LG5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 APRIL 2021

Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Committee held on 6 April 2021.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Licensing committee held on 6 April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

LG6 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MAY 2021

Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Sub Committee held on 18 May 2021.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Licensing Sub Committee held on 18 May 2021 be approved as a correct record.

LG7 MOBILE HOMES FEES POLICY FOR FIT AND PROPER TEST

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) inviting Members to approve a fees policy required under newly introduced Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020.

It was reported that the Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020, prohibit the use of land as a residential mobile home site unless the local authority is satisfied that the owner or manager of the site is a fit and proper person to manage the site. The purpose of the fit and proper person test is to improve the standards of park (mobile) home site management and the regulations were made on 23 September 2020 and by 1 October 2021 all site owners must submit an application for a relevant person to be assessed as fit and proper persons.

Darlington currently has 19 licensed caravan sites and the fee to license these ranges from £200 to £260 depending on the number of pitches and there is a charge of £100 for a variation to be made to this licence. The submitted report proposed therefore that a fee of £100 be charged as a fair and transparent cost to cover costs incurred in the first instance, until such a time a process mapping exercise can be carried out to provide an accurate cost for subsequent annual applications.

General discussion ensued on the regulations and in particular the test for fit and proper in relation to site owners and the Licensing Manager advised Members that there will be a high input from other responsible authorities and intelligence to support a refusal or grant of a licence and advised that conditions could also be added to a licence where necessary.

RESOLVED – That the Mobile Homes Fees Policy with a charge of £100 for publication be approved.