

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13 November 2018

PRESENT – Councillors Nutt (Chair), Kane, Lawton, Lee, Newall and K Nicholson

APOLOGIES – Councillors C L B Hughes, B Jones and Mrs D Jones,

ABSENT – Councillors Rahman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors C Dickenson (Durham Constabulary)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Julie Richings (Principal Licensing Officer), Bethany Symonds (Lawyer), Brian Murray (Licensing Officer) and Hall

LG10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

LG11 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2018

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Committee held on 16 October 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

LG12 RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS - ROCKCLIFFE HALL

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) to consider an application received from Rockcliffe Hall Hotel for the renewal of a licence to be approved as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994); the Civic Partnership Act (2004); the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005; and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

The submitted report gave a summary of Rockcliffe Hall as an approved venue; the designated rooms and maximum capacity; and a copy of the application was appended to the submitted report.

As part of the renewal process the application sought to approve two additional areas as a place where a Civil Ceremony could take place namely 'The Glasshouse' and the 'Rosebud Curious Cabin'. The Superintendent Registrar advised the Members that the Licensing Officer and the Building Control Manager had been consulted on the additional areas and no concerns had been raised.

RESOLVED – That approval be granted for the renewal of Rockcliffe Hall, Hurworth, Darlington as an approved venue for the solemnisation of Marriages and Civil Partnerships in respect of the venue subject to the standard licence conditions and that the maximum number of persons permitted to occupy ceremony rooms on the

occasion of Civil Marriages or Civil Partnerships.

LG13 LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2018/19

The Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) to invite Members to determine the licence fees relating to transport licensing and animal welfare licensing. The proposed fees had been based on the recovery of administering and where appropriate enforcing the relevant legislation relating to such licences.

It was reported that Full Council at its meeting on 28 January 2016 had delegated the setting of all fees and registrations that are within the remit of the General Licensing Committee to that Committee to enable in depth consideration to be given by Members in a specialist Committee.

The submitted report outlined the introduction of a 'licensing' scheme for home to school transport drivers and operators; the accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 the introduction of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations on 1 October 2018; and a review of the Licensing Service.

The submitted report also outlined the review of the taxi licensing fees for the current financial year which showed that at the end of the last financial year the carry forward income for Hackney Carriages was £34,228 and £28,509 for private hire giving a total carry forward of £62,373. It was therefore proposed that all fees in respect of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators remain for a third year at their current levels.

With regard to Animal Welfare Licence Fees a costings exercise in relation to the application processing and licensing and inspection of animal welfare premises had been carried out in order that the fees reflected the cost to the Council for providing this Service. The proposed fees were outlined in the submitted report and will be reviewed annually.

Members welcomed the report and in particular the introduction of a 'licensing' scheme for home to school transport drivers and operators to be implemented at the end of this financial year to ensure that drivers and operators who carry the most vulnerable members of the public are protected at all times.

RESOLVED – That Members of this General Licensing Committee:

- (a) approve that the taxi licensing fees continue at their current rate from 1 April 2019; and
- (b) approve the fees in respect of animal welfare licensing as detailed in the submitted report.