

**14 JUNE 2019**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Friday, 14 June 2019

\* Cllr Steve Clarke (Chairman)

\* Cllr Neil Tungate (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

\* Ann Bellows  
\* Geoffrey Blunden  
\* Rebecca Clark  
\* Keith Craze  
Jack Davies  
\* Steve Davies  
\* Arthur Davis

**Councillors:**

\* Barry Dunning  
David Harrison  
\* David Hawkins  
Alvin Reid  
\* Joe Reilly  
\* John Ward

\*Present

**Officers Attending:**

Rebecca Drummond, Christa Ferguson, Joanne McClay and Andy Rogers

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jack Davies and Alvin Reid

**4 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 25 February and 20 May 2019 be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

**5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with any agenda item.

**6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**7 GAMBLING ACT POLICY - REVIEW**

The Committee considered arrangements for a review of the Council's Gambling Policy.

The Statement of Gambling Principles was out for consultation until 26 July 2019, and the Committee would be informed of the comments received at the September 2019 meeting, when they would be required to recommend the finalised Statement to full Council for adoption. The Statement would be valid for three years subject to

there being no changes imposed by the Gambling Commission in the interim. Members were invited to go to the website and contribute to the consultation should they so wish.

The Statement had been updated to take account of and reflect legislative changes since the last review.

**RESOLVED:**

That the content of the draft revised Statement of Gambling Principles be noted and that the Committee receive the finalised Statement of Gambling Policy in the September meeting which will take into account consultation responses.

**8 SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR TAXI DRIVERS**

The Committee noted a proposal to introduce mandatory safeguarding training to be completed by all existing taxi drivers prior to renewal and issue of their drivers licence. There was a need to raise awareness of safeguarding issues within the taxi trade as it had an important role to play in conjunction with licensing authorities to protect the public. All existing drivers would be required to attend the safeguarding training and new licences would only be issued on successful completion of the assessment module. The training has been recently reviewed and updated based on feedback from new applicants undertaking the training, officers and neighbouring authorities.

Officers undertook to pass on to the Committee the details of the safeguarding awareness training and safeguarding handbook for licensed drivers and these will be sent out to accompany the minutes of the meeting.

It was noted the training applied to Hackney or Private Use drivers, including Uber drivers.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee endorse the safeguarding training module being introduced for existing taxi drivers and recognises the positive outcome of implementing this with all new and existing applicants.

**9 LICENSING PROCEDURE AND CHECKLIST**

The Committee considered a proposed revision to the procedure for licensing hearings. It was noted that the changes were purely technical in terms of terminology and did not change the actual procedure used when licensing hearings were held.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised draft licensing procedure at Appendix 1 and a checklist at Appendix 2 to item 6 be approved with effect from 12 June 2019; and
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer (or the Deputy Monitoring Officer) in consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee to update the licensing hearing procedure to take account of any new legislation or guidance, provided that such

changes were minor, and that any significant changes be brought to the attention of the Committee.

**10 POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES REVIEW**

The Council was required to complete a review of the polling districts and polling places within the District by the end of 2019. Following discussions with the Chairman, it was proposed to set up a working party to consider the issues involved and to make recommendations to the Committee. Local members would be invited to attend when issues concerning their wards were discussed. Views of parish and town councils, together with those of disability groups, will also be sought.

Volunteers would be sought across the Council membership and this will be confirmed by email in due course.

It was agreed that the Chairman could agree the final membership of the working party.

**RESOLVED:**

That the terms of reference of the working party be agreed as follows:

“To oversee the review of the polling districts and polling places in the New Forest District under Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, and to make recommendations to the General Purposes & Licensing Committee”.

CHAIRMAN