

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

### LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 5 April 2022

**Present: Councillor Bob Backhouse (Chairman)**  
**Councillors Allen, Ellis, Funnell, Hayward, Pope, White and Wormington**

**Officers in Attendance:** Sharon Degiorgio (Senior Licensing Officer), Robin Harris (Team Leader (Contentious)), Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment) and Louise Kellam (Democratic Services Officer)

#### CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

LC66/21 The Chairman opened the meeting, introduced Committee Members and Officers in attendance, and outlined procedural matters of the meeting.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

LC67/21 Apologies were received from Councillors Atkins, Hill, Lidstone and Roberts.  
 Councillors Thomson and Atwood were not present at the meeting.

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

LC68/21 There were no declarations of interest made.

#### NOTIFICATION OF VISITING PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK (IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 18 OR 19):

LC69/21 Mr Clayton Berry was registered to speak on Agenda Item 6 – Request for a Hackney Carriage Fare Increase.

#### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 08 MARCH 2022

LC70/21 No amendments were proposed to the Minutes.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting dated 8 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

#### REQUEST FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE

LC71/21 Registered Speaker – Mr Clayton Berry

Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer, introduced the report as set out in the agenda.

Questions and discussion from Members included:

- Mr Berry had consulted with approximately 50-60% of other local members of the Taxi trade
- While exact figures were unknown as to the proportion of diesel (which was mentioned had increased in cost sharply due to recent

world events, putting pressure on drivers) taxis compared to petrol and hybrid, it was noted that petrol and electricity had also increased in cost and so increased costs were affecting all members of the taxi and Hackney Carriage trade.

- It was clarified with Mr Berry that the Weekend Surcharge would be removed in favour of the overall fare increase.

**RESOLVED:** That the Licensing Committee had considered and approved the proposed increase in the table of fares as set out in appendix D of the report for implementation on 27 April 2022, subject to public consultation.

### **URGENT BUSINESS**

LC72/21      There was no urgent business for consideration.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

LC73/21      The next meeting of the Licensing Committee was scheduled for 28 June 2022.

NOTE: The meeting concluded at 6.50pm.