
CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 19.11.07

Present: W. Gareth Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: John.R.Jones, Bill Lovelock, Dewi Llewelyn, Ieuan Roberts, Gwilym O. Williams

Also Present: Amlyn ab Iorwerth (Licensing Manager) and Barbara Owen (Committee Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Tomos Evans, Evie Morgan Jones and W.Tudor Owen.

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman reported on a new procedure adopted from now onwards where the Council's Solicitor would not be present in the Central Licensing Committee meetings, rather a member of the legal team would be available throughout the meeting on the phone should any advice be needed.

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 17 September 2007, as a true record.

2. SEX SHOP FEES

The Licensing Manager submitted the report of the Head of Administration and Public Protection detailing the Sex Shop Fees for 2007/08.

Reported - an update following a decision made during the committee's previous meeting, held on 17 September this year, when Sex Shop fees were adopted. At that time, a figure for the renewal of a fee already in existence was not discussed.

It was essential that establishments applied annually to renew fees, and it was recommended to set a figure of £1,450 for any renewal.

In response to questions from members, the Licensing Manager noted:-

- i) that the sum appointed for a fee renewal by other Councils in the country varied greatly.
- ii) that it was resolved to organise a reimbursement in unsuccessful cases, because there was no need for the administrative follow-up as when an application was approved.

RESOLVED that the licence renewal fee for a Sex Establishment be set at a level of £1,450 for 2007/2008.

3. ABOLISH EXEMPTION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE

Submitted – the report of the Head of Administration and Public Protection on a clause in the Road Safety Act 2006 which had obligations to Private Hire licences.

Currently, there was an exemption under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ,clause 75 (i)(b), which allowed a vehicle to be used for more than seven days under contract, and would not be required to be licensed as a Private Hire vehicle.

Clause 53 of the Road Safety Act 2006 revoked this right, and it would come into force in January 2008.

This will have an effect on some, for example, the vehicles of those who are contracted by the Council's Education Department to carry children to school, would not be required to be licensed. From now on, these operators would be required to place a plate inside the vehicle, on the windscreen , but plates would not be required on the outside of the vehicles. This would allow them to carry out work under contract, but not other private hire work. Also, no other person apart from those named on the licence would be permitted to drive the vehicle. To reflect this, a fee of £40 each was recommended for an operator's licence and a vehicle licence.

In response to a member's question, the Licensing Manager confirmed that the licence holder was responsible for arranging a vehicle inspection every six months.

RESOLVED:

- a) that operators who carry passengers by contract, for example with the Education Department, are to place a plate inside the vehicle, on the windscreen**
- b) that there is no need to display plates on the outside of these cars**
- c) that a fee of £40 will be charged for an operator's licence and a fee of £40 for the vehicle licence**

4. Licensing Policy Review – Licensing Act 2003

Submitted – the report of the Head of Administration and Public Protection reviewing the Licensing Policy and updating the situation.

At the committee's previous meeting held on 17 September 2007, it was agreed to offer the Community Councils, the Police, the Fire Service and other relevant responsible authorities within the Council, the opportunity to respond to the recommendations. The Licensing Manager reported that he had received some responses that supported the recommendations. It was noted that a letter received from the Fire Service contained details of new regulations that were adopted in 2006 and which were to be included in the policy.

RESOLVED to approve the changes recommended to the committee in its meeting on 17 September 2007, as well as the Fire Service's response submitted to this meeting, and to submit the recommendations for the Council's consideration, to be adopted formally, in its meeting on the 13 December 2007.

The meeting commenced at 10:30a.m. and ended at 10.55a.m.

