
CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 26.01.09

Present: Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Robert Anderson, Evie Morgan Jones, J.R.Jones, Peter Read, Ieuan Roberts

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

Apologies: Councillors W. Tudor Owen, Louise Hughes and W. Gareth Roberts

1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declaration of personal interest was received by any member present at the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the last meeting of the committee, held on 9 October 2008, as a true record.

3. MINUTES OF CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES:

Submitted, for information, the minutes of the following meetings:-

2 October 2008

12 November 2008

17 December 2008

RESOLVED to accept and note the information.

Matter arising from a past case:

The local member for Llanbedr referred to a resolution made during April 2008 not to approve a TV outside the Lion Hotel, Barmouth, reporting that the television continued to be in place outside the premises. He enquired about the appeal process and the situation regarding Enforcement, declaring his concern that decisions of the Licensing Sub-committee were not implemented. The Licensing Manager responded, stating that the Environmental Health Section had brought the application to the attention of the Licensing Section and the Member's observation would be conveyed to the appropriate officers.

The period for granting an appeal for the Lion Hotel ended in October 2008 and it was understood that the owners of the Hotel had decided not to lodge the appeal prior to the end of this period. Dolgellau area had been without an Enforcement Officer until October 2008 but by now the post has been filled and the Enforcement Officer's attention would be drawn to the matter involving the Lion Hotel and a report on the situation would be provided to the Committee by the Officer.

RESOLVED to refer the matter to the appropriate officers and report back to Cllr. Evie M. Jones

4. REVIEW CONDITION OF HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Licensing Manager submitted his report stating that he had received an application from the Arfon Taxi Association to increase the maximum age allowed for vehicles to be licensed to 12 years, rather than 10 years as was the case currently. It was reported that it appeared that a variation had been seen in neighbouring counties with Isle of Anglesey Council allowing vehicles up to the age of 12 years whilst Conwy Council had no maximum age whatsoever.

The officer noted reasons in favour and against the request and invited members' comments and the following observations were made:

- There was considerable wear and tear on taxi vehicles compared with other vehicles.
- It was important that the condition of vehicles licensed by Gwynedd Council were of an acceptable standard.
- The request had been received from a wide representation from the Arfon Taxis Association.
- Support of the taxi drivers and the increased costs of running a business in the current economic climate were expressed.

During a debate on the issue, there were differences of opinion, supporting either side or the other of the application and a vote was taken on the matter. The result was five votes in favour and two against keeping to the maximum age limit of 10 years.

RESOLVED:

- i) **the current maximum age limit to remain at 10 years old for hackney/private hire vehicles**

5. LICENSING CONDITIONS OF RICKSHAWS

The Licensing Manager submitted a report noting that he had received an application from a couple who wished to establish a rickshaw business in the area of the Mawddach estuary along with an initial enquiry in the Caernarfon area.

A policy was required for such enterprises and an appendix was submitted for the attention of members proposing an appropriate policy for this type of business. It was noted that the requirements of any applicant would correspond mostly to those already in existence for hackney/ private hire vehicle drivers, namely, a medical examination every three years or more frequently depending on age; the driver would submit a relevant criminal history report and the relevant fee would have to be paid.

It was recommended that the licence would be valid for 12 months from the date of issue and it would need to be reviewed annually and the following fees would be payable:

Vehicle:	£40.00
Plate:	£10.50
Driver:	£59.00

RESOLVED:-

- i) to accept the report**
- ii) to accept the 'Rickshaw Hackney Vehicles: Licence Conditions'**
- iii) to approve the following fees for rickshaw hackney vehicles:
Vehicle: £40.00; Plate: £10.50 Driver: £59.00**

The meeting commenced at 10:30a.m. and concluded at 10.50a.m.