

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008** in the Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00am – 11.15am)

**Present:**

**Members:** Nigel Mermagen (In the Chair)

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Dave Bulmer          | Peter Roake     |
| John Vincent Chainey | Keith Ronaldson |
| Tony Fife            | Alan Smith      |
| John Hann            | Linda Vijeh     |
| Roy Mills            | Martin Wale     |
| David Recardo        |                 |

**Officers:**

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|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Julia Bradburn | Principal Licensing Officer |
| Lyn Lockyer    | Committee Administrator     |

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### 1. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairmen.

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### 2. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

There were no apologies for absence.

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### 3. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillors Tony Fife, David Recardo, John Hann, John Vincent Chainey and Alan Smith declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 – Street Trading Fees, as members of Yeovil Town Council, as the Town Council was affected by street trading fees.

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### 4. Report on Sunrise Festival 2008 (Agenda Item 4)

The Principal Licensing Officer presented her report on the recent Sunrise Festival. The decision had been taken to cancel this event at short notice due to severe weather conditions in the days leading up to the festival. She gave members the opportunity to look at photographs taken at this time. She stated that the organisers would not be using this site again due to its unsuitability but would probably be looking for another site within South Somerset.

The Committee requested that their official thanks to all officers involved for the magnificent job they had carried out in averting what could have been a serious disaster

be noted. It was considered that officers had gone above and beyond the call of duty within their role

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

*Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113*

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## **5. Report on Gambling Act Delegation (Agenda Item 5)**

The Principal Licensing Officer presented her report and highlighted the major changes to the current SSDC Scheme of Delegation. Members were given the current scheme of delegation and the suggested scheme of delegation for comparison.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend the adoption of the interim scheme of delegation before it is submitted to the District Executive to be included in the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2009.

*Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113*

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## **6. Update on DDA Taxi requirements (Agenda Item 6)**

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report and said that the government had not yet released the specification of vehicles it was therefore unlikely that any new specifications would be enforced before January 2010. Members asked her about the number of complaints that had been received and were informed that most of the complaints originated from the same people and were about taxis being unable to carry motorised scooters. She said that this issue would not be addressed by the new government regulations but pointed out that solutions/compromises were available by using Shop Mobility facilities and CVS transport.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

*Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113*

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## **7. Street Trading Fees (Agenda Item 7)**

The Principal Licensing Officer gave her report and asked members to consider the minutes within her report from the District Executive meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008. In order to create a fairness across the whole district the Principal Licensing Officer was keen to agree a parity of fees between market and street traders. Consultation with other similar authorities had taken place in respect of fees charged. The Clerk of Yeovil Town Council (YTC) had requested that the fees for Yeovil Town remain at £20.00 for Saturdays, occasional Sundays and Bank Holidays. She informed members that YTC have delegated responsibility for street trading but SSDC had the responsibility for setting the fees and any enforcement that is required. Members discussed street trading fees and enforcement.

Members of the Committee unanimously requested that in future street trading fees come to the Licensing Committee for approval before going to District Executive.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the report be noted;
  2. That the level of street trading fees be set at £11.00 per day per pitch for permanent traders and £13.00 per day per pitch for casual traders trading part of the week for a period of less than 3 months.

(Voting: 7 in favour, 5 against)

*Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113*

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## **8. Taxi fare Increase (Agenda Item 8)**

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report and pointed out that taxi fare increases would normally be considered later but as a number of requests had been received due to the current rapid increase in fuel prices following consultations it had been decided to bring the report forward. It was clarified that Table One in the report referred to the Day Rate and Table 2 the Night Rate and that the rate set was the maximum that could be charged. There were only changes to the flag rate and percentage on mileage. Following successful recommendations the new rates would be advertised for objections and it was agreed that the officer could have the delegated authority to deal with any objections received following this procedure.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the fares increase for Hackney Carriages requested by the operators be noted and the following options for the level of fares be agreed:

That the revised Hackney Carriage fares be agreed as set out in Table 3.

This option would include:

- (a) 60p be added to the flag rate increasing the price from £2.40 to £3.00
- (b) 10% be added to the flag rate for each 1/10 of a mile from £0.20 to £0.22
- (c) There be no increase in the cost of waiting time.

The fares are inclusive of VAT and the proposed implementation date for the above would be 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 subject to no objections being received.

*(Voting: 10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention)*

2. That any responses received following the advertising of fares are considered under delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and any subsequent changes are reported to the Licensing Committee for information.

*Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113*

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**9. Rota for Licensing Sub-Committees (Agenda Item 9)**

The Committee agreed that the rota continued to provide a useful framework for the meetings when required and offered a fair distribution of members for the sub-committees. Members agreed to the change in the proposed rota to alter the name of Councillor Colin Winder, who was no longer a member of the Licensing Committee and replace with Councillor William Wallace.

**RESOLVED:** that the Licensing Sub-Committees continue on a rota basis and that the rota for the remainder of the municipal year 2008-09 be agreed.

*Jo Morris, Committee Administrator, 01935 462055*

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**10. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED:** that in accordance with Section 100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 7, information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

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**11. Confidential Item – Update on Operation Relentless (Agenda Item 10)**

The Principal Licensing Officer gave her report.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

*Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer, 01935 462113*

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**12. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 11)**

Members noted the date of the next meeting of the Licensing Committee on Tuesday 7th October at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.

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Chairman