

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 07 March 2024 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D A Flagg – Chairman

Cllr S Moore – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr B Castle, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr M Dower, Cllr G Farquhar,  
Cllr A Filer, Cllr E Harman, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie,  
Cllr C Matthews, Cllr J Richardson and Cllr L Williams

34. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr P Hilliard.

35. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

36. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

37. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee on 7 December 2023 and the Licensing Sub Committees held on 14 and 23 November 2023, 6 and 12 December 2023, 3, 17, 22, 24 and 31 January 2024 and 14 February 2024 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

38. Public Issues

There were no public questions, statements or petitions for this meeting.

39. Review of Hackney Carriage Maximum Fares and Charges Tariff

The Licensing Manager presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Sub-Committee was advised that a request had been received by Mr David Lane, on behalf of BCP Taxi Private Hire Association, for a 4% increase in the current Hackney Carriage Tariff. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allowed the Council to fix the rates or fares within the district for time as well as distance. Any change in the tariff

would be reflected across all three current Hackney Carriage zones within the BCP Council conurbation.

Mr David Lane was in attendance and responded to various questions raised by committee members, as follow:

- A further amendment was requested for the extra charge permitted for five or more passengers in a multi seater, on tariff 1 this went from £1.00 to £2.00 and on tariffs 2 and 3 from £1.25 to £2.00. This was to cover drivers that may have to drive some distance in for a job if a customer had requested a 6/8 seater vehicle. It was highlighted that the vehicles previously used as 6 seaters were no longer available for replacement and therefore drivers had to purchase 8 seater vehicles, which cost more. An additional fare would only be incurred if there were over 4 passengers in a 6/8 seater vehicle.
- Tarif 1 and 2 waiting times were there to recompensate drivers when they were stationary e.g. sat in traffic or or waiting at traffic lights.

**RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee approve the request for an adjustment in the current fares and charges as requested.**

**Voting: Unanimous**

40. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees review

The Licensing Manager presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Committee was asked to consider an increase of 4% to the fees charged by BCP Council in 2023 for the administration of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing regime. The Licensing Manager explained that an increase greater than 4% ran the risk of losing drivers to neighbouring authorities. It was noted that any change to the fees for vehicles and Private Hire Operators would be subject to a 28-day minimum consultation period.

In response to various questions raised by the Committee, the Licensing Manager advised that:

- It appeared that the BCP application fee was significantly less than what Dorset County Council and Southampton City Council charged, however, BCP charged an application fee, and once approved, drivers then had to pay an additional licence fee, which brought the total cost to £275. In addition, BCP charged more for a 3-year licence.
- The figures given for Southampton City Council and Dorset County Council were up to date.
- A fee review had been undertaken across the service and by law, the authority could only charge fees on a cost recovery basis. It was

a challenging process to ensure that vehicles and drivers were operating safely whilst working on a cost recovery basis.

- Any changes to Driver Licence fees would be implemented from 1 April 2024 and changes to Vehicle Licences and Operators Licences would be implemented at the conclusion of the consultation period and/or any other Licensing Committee meeting that may be required.

**RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee agree the proposed fees as stated.**

41. Review of Licensing fees

The Licensing Manager presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The purpose of the report was to establish the licensing fees and charges that should apply from 1 April 2024 for the next three years for those licensing activities where the Council had discretion to do so.

Inflationary increases to staff salaries meant that costs to provide the service had increased. A 4% uplift in fees had been applied to reflect these increased costs.

The fees under review were Scrap Metal Dealers (3 year Licence), Pleasure Boats and Sexual Establishments (both 1 year licences).

In response to various questions raised by the Committee, the Licensing Manager advised that:

- The fees only covered self-drive boats and passenger boats covering up to 12 passengers, inland only, and did not apply to visiting boats.
- The Licensing Team regularly liaised with Dorset Police with regard to the operation of scrap metal dealers in the conurbation to ensure compliance.
- Legislation stated that scrap metal operatives only required basic DPS checks, which they must fund themselves.

Cllrs Dowell and Farquhar abstained from voting on sex establishment licence fees due to a moral interest.

The Legal Adviser recommended that the vote be broken down into 3 parts so that Clls Dowell and Farquhar could vote on the proposed fees for scrap metal dealers and pleasure boats.

**RESOLVED that**

- I. **The Licensing Committee agree the proposed fees, as stated, in relation to Scrap Metal Dealers.**

**Voting: Unanimous**

- II. The Licensing Committee agree the proposed fees, as stated, in relation to Pleasure Boats.**

**Voting: Unanimous**

- III. The Licensing Committee agree the proposed fees, as stated, in relation to Sexual Establishments**

**Voting: 11 in favour  
2 abstained**

42. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy - Minor Amendments

The Licensing Manager asked the Licensing Committee to approve the following minor amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy:

- Colour of Private Hire Vehicles –  
**section 23.1** amend to read ‘No vehicle licensed as a Private Hire shall be coloured white (this is to avoid confusion with Hackney Carriages.) Any existing private hire vehicles which are white must be resprayed another colour by 31 December 2024’.
- Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles –  
**section 14.1** amend to read ‘It is expected any vehicle presented to the council to be licenced as a wheelchair accessible vehicle must meet the following space standards which are 1350mm high, 700mm wide, 1200mm long as stated within the Statutory Guidance document access to taxis and private hire vehicles for disabled users. Access to taxis and private hire vehicles for disabled users - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).’  
**Section 14.2** amend to read ‘It is the licence holder’s responsibility to ensure any vehicle meets this standard prior to purchase and presentation for licence’.

**RESOLVED that the Committee approve the proposed amendments, as stated, with the changes to wheelchair accessible vehicles to take place with immediate effect.**

**Voting: Unanimous**

43. Forward Plan

The Licensing Manager took members through the committee’s forward plan, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The meeting ended at 10.55 am

CHAIRMAN