

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Friday 25th September 2020 at 14:00 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors E Ashby, R Cornwell and A Doig.
Also present: A Shanley (Clerk).

Cllr L Brown in the Chair

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Freeman and C Reeves.

2. To receive any declarations of interest from members

None received.

3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 28 August 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2020 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items.

None received.

5. Update on proposal from Durham Police to fund an enhanced drug testing facility

The Clerk reminded Members that the £1,200 worth of funding towards a joint project with Durham Police to carry out additional sniffer dog searches of licensed premises had now been approved by Full Council. The Clerk advised that the end of October and in December (in the run up to Christmas) had been put forward as potential dates for this to take place. The Committee asked the Clerk to seek guidance from Durham Police directly on when they feel would be the most appropriate time for these searches to take place, in view of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in relation to licensed premises.

6. Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles DCC policy consultation

The Clerk reminded Members that the County Council has now launched a consultation on its hackney carriages and private hire vehicles policy.

The Clerk advised that matter was discussed at a previous meeting of the Parish Council's Licensing Committee and it was agreed at the meeting that the Parish Council ought to respond in view of the important role which these vehicles play in the City of Durham Parish area.

The Clerk advised that DCC has made changes to the current policy. The purpose of which is to explain how the County Council undertakes its functions when licensing hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The primary focus being on safeguarding and public protection, particularly, the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

The Department for Transport expects these recommendations to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to.

The Clerk advised that the closing date for comments is midnight on Sunday 29 November 2020.

All replies will be reviewed and any amendments to the draft policy will be made. It will then go to DCC's General Licensing and Registration Committee (GLRC), and then to the next Full Council meeting for approval. Any changes will be adopted by April 2021. The Policy will continue thereafter until 2026.

The Clerk advised that he had received a request from local County Councillor Richard Ormerod that the following sentence be included in the Parish Council's response to this consultation.

"We believe it would be helpful if the policy could be amended to add (to the current Appendix 1) a basic, general statement that drivers must comply with traffic laws and all council traffic regulations /restrictions /requirements at all times as a condition of their licence."

The Committee felt that it would be helpful to invite a Member of the Durham Taxis Association to a future meeting of the Parish Council Licensing Committee in order to see what their view on this consultation is. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to invite a member of the Association to come and speak with the Parish Council about this.

7. Update on recent licensing applications

The Chair reported that 'Durham CIC' and 'Flip and Stack' had been successful in securing their respective licenses. The latter with agreed conditions following the Parish Council's representation to the original application.

8. To consider the following pavement licensing applications:

Coviello Coffee and Barber - 24 Silver St, Durham DH1 3RD Co. Durham

The Committee **approved** the agreed objection to this application, on the grounds that this would breach the no-obstruction condition as set out in the Business and Planning Act 2020.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

Signed,



Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Licensing Committee

