



Licensing committee

16:30 to 17:25

30 November 2017

Present: Councillors Woollard (vice chair in the chair), Bradford, Brociek-Coulton, Jones (B), Jones (T), Malik, Maxwell, Price, Raby, Thomas (Va), Thomas (Vi) and Wright (sub for Councillor Ackroyd).

Apologies: Councillors Ackroyd and Button (chair).

1. Public questions/ petitions

There were no public questions or petitions received.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

Subject to amending Councillor Price's declaration of interest to declare that his interest extended to all the premises on Prince of Wales Road and that Councillor Raby abstained from the vote on the application for B52, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017.

4. Hackney Carriage Fare Review

(Representatives from Norwich Station Taxi Association (NSTA) attended the meeting for this item).

The environmental protection, licensing and markets manager presented the report. He highlighted an amendment to the report, paragraph three, page 76 in which the sentence 'The application also seeks to reduce the periods of waiting time for the 20p unit charge' was removed.

He highlighted paragraph 14 which referred to figures for calculating the rate. The figure of 11.29% was high because the calculation was made using costings for London taxis. London taxis were electric hybrid vehicles which were expensive and

therefore increased the costs. The calculation of future increases may use a different formula to take account of this.

In response to a member's question the representative from NSTA said that the 3.6% increase they were requesting represented 0.9% per year over four years as it had been four years since the last increase. The request had been made as programming for current taxi meters expired on the 2 January 2018.

It was noted that if granted, the new rate would leave Norwich taxis costing more than those in neighbouring districts, taking account of figures provided in appendix F to the report. The representatives from NSTA highlighted that Norwich City Council's licensing required operators to have cars which were wheelchair accessible at a cost of approximately £30,000. Neighbouring districts required saloon cars which cost approximately £10,000.

In response to members concerns regarding increasing prices for taxis at a time of financial difficulty for many the representatives stated the increase represented a small increase in short journeys which constituted the majority of their business.

During discussion, the environmental protection, licensing and markets manager confirmed the figures provided in the report were inaccurate. It was agreed the figures to be considered would be those provided by the representatives from NSTA.

RESOLVED to agree to the increase in fares as proposed by the Norwich Station Taxi Association provided in appendix A to the report.

5. Standing item – Regulatory subcommittee minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the regulatory subcommittee meetings held on 18 September 2017.

CHAIR