

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 27th November, 2024**

**Present:** Cllr C Brown (Chair), Cllr C J Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Banks, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr A Cope, Cllr D Keers, Cllr D W King, Cllr R W G Oliver, Cllr R V Roud and Cllr K S Tunstall.

Councillor M Taylor submitted apologies for in-person attendance and participated via MS Teams when invited to do so. However, he was unable to vote on or propose any motions.

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

**LA 24/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

**LA 24/14 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 25 September 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**LA 24/15 MINUTES OF PANEL**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Appeals Committee sitting as a Panel held on 25 October 2024 be received and noted.

**MATTERS FOR DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

**LA 24/16 REVIEW OF LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26**

Following a review of the existing fee structure, the report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive set out details of the proposed licensing fees and charges for 2025/26 in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences and Vehicle Licences, Administration Fees, Scrap Metal Dealers, Street Trading Consents, Film Classification, Sex Establishments, Boating Licences, Events Pre-Application Advice, Hypnotism Licence, Animal Welfare, Gambling and the licensing of premises and practitioners providing Acupuncture, Electrolysis and Ear Piercing, Cosmetic Piercing, Tattooing and Semi-permanent make up.

Members noted that Type 1 licensing fees were set by statute for which the Borough Council had no power to amend and that when considering Type 2 and Type 3 fees, the Council considered the income and costs from the previous year, which meant that the fees would fluctuate year on year.

During discussion, concern was raised regarding the decline in Scrap Metal Mobile Collector licences, and whether this indicated an increase in illegal operators. Members requested a press release advising residents that mobile scrap metal collectors were required to display a licence in their vehicle.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed scale of fees for licences, consents and registrations, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be adopted with effect from the 1 April 2025.

**LA 24/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.58 pm