

Ashford Borough Council: Licensing Committee

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Microsoft Teams on the 19th January 2021.

Present:

Cllr. Webb (Chairman);
Cllr. Krause (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Buchanan, Burgess, Farrell, Feacey, Ledger, Pickering, Rogers, L Suddards.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Mulholland, Shorter.

Also Present:

Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader, Principal Litigator, Member Services Manager (Operational).

205 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Feacey	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he was the owner of Energyshift Ltd who worked with members of the taxi trade.	207
Webb	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Director of the Ashford Volunteer Centre.	207

206 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the former Licensing, Health and Safety Committee held on the 15th January 2020 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

207 Proposed Fee Levels for Gambling Act and Licensing Act Applications 2021/2022

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said she wanted to thank the Officers for their hard work in engaging with the trade over the setting of these fees and considered that, as always, they had worked hard to arrive at a fair outcome for all concerned.

The Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader introduced the report which proposed fees for Gambling Act licences and notices for the financial year

2021/22. He advised that the setting of licensing fees generally allowed the Licensing Authority to recover the costs of processing licence applications, regulation and back office costs associated with the running of the licensing regime. Although there was no legal duty for licensing fees to be cost neutral, the Council had a responsibility with reference to managing public funds and setting appropriate fees. The fees also could not be set so as to be profit making, but the 'books' could be balanced over a number of years rather than in any individual year if profits/losses were very different to those expected. He drew attention to the proposed fees contained within the report.

Gambling Related Fees

The report recommended that the fees increase in line with inflation, except where fees were at the statutory maximum as prescribed by regulation.

In response to a question, the Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader advised that with regard to the application fees for a Regional Casino, this was not something that the Ashford Borough had authorisation from the Government for, so whilst they did have to set a fee by the regulations, a Regional Casino was not something that would be applicable to Ashford.

Recommended:

- (i) that the fees used for gambling applications be approved.

RECOMMENDED GAMBLING RELATED LICENCE FEES FOR 2021/22

Premises Type	New Application (£)	Annual Fee (£)
New Small Casino	7316 (8000)	4153 (5000)
New Large Casino	8704 (10000)	8374 (10000)
Regional Casino	13787 (15000)	12929 (15000)
Bingo Club	2505 (3500)	780 (1000)
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	2549 (3000)	506 (600)
Tracks	1959 (2500)	780 (1000)
Family Entertainment Centres	1959 (2000)	674 (750)
Adult Gaming Centre	1959 (2000)	785 (1000)
Temporary Use Notices	216 (500)	N/A

	Application to Vary £	Application to Transfer £	Application for Re-Instatement £	Application for Provisional Statement £	Licence Application (provisional Statement holders) £	Copy Licence £	Notification of Change £
New Small Casino	2995 (4000)	1741 (1800)	1463 (1800)	7316 (8000)	2599 (3000)	25 (25)	50 (50)
New large Casino	3958 (5000)	2044 (2150)	2150 (2150)	8753 (10000)	4299 (5000)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Regional Casino	6458 (7500)	4710 (6500)	4710 (6500)	13787 (15000)	6713 (8000)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Bingo Club	1715 (1750)	952 (1200)	952 (1200)	2505 (3500)	1035 (1200)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1448 (1500)	952 (1200)	952 (1200)	2505 (3000)	1035 (1200)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Tracks	1250 (1250)	950 (950)	950 (950)	1959 (2500)	950 (950)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Family Entertainment Centres	886 (1000)	950 (950)	950 (950)	1959 (2000)	857 (950)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Adult Gaming Centre	886 (1000)	952 (1200)	924 (1200)	1959 (2000)	1032 (1200)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Temporary Use Notices	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25 (25)	N/A

Ashford Borough Council's Licensing Authority proposes the following fees as shown in bold type in the table above. For ease of reference the maximum fees identified by DCMS that could be charged are shown in brackets.

- (ii) that the annual licensing summary in relation to the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005, at Appendix B to the report, be received and noted.

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact membersservices@ashford.gov.uk
Telephone: (01233) 330499 Email: membersservices@ashford.gov.uk
Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.moderngov.co.uk