

Licensing Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Committee held in Committee Room No.2 (Bad Münstereifel Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **20th January 2022**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Burgess, Feacey, Ledger, Michael, Pickering, Shorter, Wright

Apologies:

Cllrs. Buchanan, Rogers, Smith, L Suddards.

Also Present:

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

235 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Feacey	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he was on the Management Committee of UK LPG.	237, 238
	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he was Chairman of the Ashford Volunteer Centre.	237, 238
Webb	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Director of the Ashford Volunteer Centre.	237, 238

236 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 17th November 2021 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

237 Proposed Fee Levels for Gambling Act and Licensing Act Applications 2022/2023

The Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader introduced the report which proposed fees for Gambling Act licences and notices for the financial year 2022/23 and he drew attention to the proposed fees contained within the report. 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. The fees 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. In response to a question he advised that this was generally over a 3-5 year period and he was satisfied that the proposed fees could be justified.

Gambling Related Fees

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

The Committee 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.

Recommended:

That (i) the proposed fees for gambling applications be approved.

RECOMMENDED GAMBLING RELATED LICENCE FEES FOR 2022/23

Premises Type	New Application (£)	Annual Fee (£)
New Small Casino	7535 (8000)	4277 (5000)
New Large Casino	8965 (10000)	8625 (10000)
Regional Casino	14201 (15000)	13317 (15000)
Bingo Club	2580 (3500)	803 (1000)
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	2625 (3000)	521 (600)
Tracks	2018 (2500)	803 (1000)
Family Entertainment Centres	2000 (2000)	694 (750)
Adult Gaming Centre	2000 (2000)	809 (1000)
Temporary Use Notices	222 (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	3084 (4000)	1793 (1800)	1507 (1800)	7535 (8000)	2677 (3000)	25 (25)	50 (50)
New large Casino	4077 (5000)	2105 (2150)	2150 (2150)	9016 (10000)	4428 (5000)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Regional Casino	6652 (7500)	4851 (6500)	4851 (6500)	14201 (15000)	6914 (8000)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Bingo Club	1750 (1750)	981 (1200)	981 (1200)	2580 (3500)	1066 (1200)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1491 (1500)	981 (1200)	981 (1200)	2580 (3000)	1066 (1200)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Tracks	1250 (1250)	950 (950)	950 (950)	2018 (2500)	950 (950)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Family Entertainment Centres	913 (1000)	950 (950)	950 (950)	2000 (2000)	883 (950)	25 (25)	50 (50)
Adult Gaming Centre	913 (1000)	981 (1200)	981 (1200)	2000 (2000)	1063 (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.

238 Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 - 2024

The Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader introduced the report which presented the results of a statutory consultation on a proposed amendment to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024. This was based around the expectations of the Licensing Authority on the safety of women and vulnerable persons surrounding certain alcohol licensed premises and complemented ongoing

work of the Council and partners. Four responses to the consultation had been received and were appended to the report along with the updated draft policy. He concluded by summarising the proposed updates.

The Chairman also drew attention to the comments of Councillor Lyn Suddards which had been tabled for information, as she had been unable to attend today's Meeting due to holiday.

The item was then opened up to the Committee and the following responses were given to questions/comments: -

- Free tap water should be available in all licensed premises. The key would be to encourage premises to specifically advertise this so customers were aware and felt comfortable asking for it.
- It remained a criminal offence to serve alcohol to someone who was already intoxicated. There had been examples locally of fixed penalty notices being issued for this and some establishments had sent staff on responsible retailing training. It was recognised that this was not a straightforward issue and table service during the pandemic and people buying drinks for others had made this more challenging. The Committee accepted that there was also an element of personal responsibility and there were already a number of pressures on staff who worked in licenced premises. The Council did undertake regular visits and spot checks in the night-time economy with the Police, so whilst it was an ongoing challenge, there were things going on.
- A Member thought consideration should be given to establishing an educational course on responsible drinking. This would be equivalent to the awareness course for drivers who were caught speeding and people could be sent on it when they were arrested for being drunk and disorderly.
- The door staff operating in the Borough had been included in the consultation but unfortunately no responses had been received.
- Once approved, the amended policy would be published on the Council's website. The Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader agreed to proactively send it to all premises as well.
- Kent Police were looking to establish an accreditation scheme for licensed premises, similar to the star ratings for hygiene, called "Best Bar None". It was still very early in the process, but Ashford was being lined up to be part of the pilot and more details were expected in the coming weeks. The Environmental Protection and Licensing Team Leader agreed to share those with Committee Members when available.
- It was accepted that the proposals were not a panacea and there was always more to do, but they were considered to be a good starting point and would complement other work such as the Safer Streets Initiative and Active Bystander Training.

Resolved:

That the statutory consultation responses and the prepared draft policy be received and noted.

Recommended:

That the amendment of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-24 be approved and adopted.

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