

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 9 September 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Wraith MBE (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, Eastwood, Gillis, Green, Greenhough, Daniel Griffin, C. Johnson, W. Johnson, Kitching, McCarthy, Noble, Saunders, Tattersall and Williams

20 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

21 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February, 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

22 Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence - Application

The Service Director Legal Services submitted a report on an application for the grant of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence in respect of Gentleman Jacks, Theatre Royal, Wellington Street, Barnsley.

Members noted that the current Policy in Barnsley was that only one venue could hold a licence at any one time in the Central Ward where Gentleman Jacks is sited and that this Licence was currently held by Yorkshire Security Solutions Ltd who own Wildcats. Members were informed that if they were to award the licence to Gentleman Jacks then the licence would be removed from Wildcats, ensuring that only one venue had a licence at a time in the Ward.

Members were informed that Yorkshire Security Solutions Ltd who owned Wildcats had agreed to cancel their licence in order for it to be allocated to South Yorkshire Holdings Ltd who would be opening Gentleman Jacks.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted:

- The opening times of the venue were the same as Wildcats and that no objections had been received and that these operating times would be clarified when the licence is produced
- The changing rooms would be situated in the upstairs premises as the downstairs premises would be run as a completely separate licence

- There would be doormen on the premises at all times to ensure safety and age restrictions are complied with
- Due to the nature of the activities in relation to the venue, these are the most heavily conditioned licences to be issued which was reassuring for the public and employees
- There had been no incidents or reported trouble in the past few years from Wildcats

RESOLVED:

(ii) that South Yorkshire Holdings Ltd be granted the Sexual Entertainment Licence to open the venue Gentleman Jacks in the Central Ward; and

(ii) that in granting South Yorkshire Holdings Ltd the Licence, that Yorkshire Security Solutions Ltd who currently hold a licence for Wildcats be cancelled.

23 Enforcement Update

The Service Director Legal Services submitted a report providing an overview of the continuing work of the Licensing Enforcement Officers undertaken to advise and support to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade who had continued to work during the COVID Pandemic.

Members were informed that Licensing Officers had been and continued to be proactively working with the Trade and other Local Authorities to ensure that both customers and drivers remained safe and that no official guidance had been released in relation to Hackney, Private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

Licensing Officers were working hard to support everyone that was involved. Officers had limited access to their offices in Westgate and had been attending a few hours a week in order to produce and post vehicle licence plates and driver badges to ensure continuous service.

Members noted that Officers had made the decision not to grant extensions to driver or vehicle licences to maintain public safety. Many of the garages that carry out MOT testing had remained open during the lock down ensuring that drivers could obtain the required MOT. All local knowledge tests had been cancelled and remained cancelled and no new driver applications were being accepted whilst COVID restrictions were in place.

It was reported that Licensing Officers had received several enquiries with regards to the installation of partition screens in their licensed vehicles, whilst this was not part of the vehicle policy it would comply with the Transport for London guidance in relation to screens being fitted safely and to ensure they don't interfere with airbags or become a trip hazard. Members were informed that a number of drivers had already had these fitted. These would remain in their cars as a protection screen in the future and this was seen as a vehicle safety investment for drivers going forward.

Members were informed that facemask wearing for both drivers and passengers was not compulsory, however, Licensing Officers had sourced around 1700 masks which was enough for every Hackney Carriage vehicle to have a box to hand out to customers to keep everyone safe. Drivers were also encouraged to sanitise vehicles

after every passenger, focusing on seatbelt buckles and door handles but this was not enforceable and was guidance only.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Board place on record it's thanks and appreciation to the staff within the Licensing Service for all their hard work in ensuring the continued safety of the drivers and travelling public during the COVID pandemic.

Digitalisation

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Licensing Officer gave an update to members with regards to the Digitalisation of the Licensing function which was due to be rolled out in April 2020. This had been put on hold but Licensing Officers were working with IT to get it up and running as soon as possible. In the interim Officers and drivers had been corresponding by email, taking payments over the phone and badges and plates being posted out rather than collected in person from the offices which are currently closed and thankfully everyone was on board and working well together.

Chair