

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee**
held on Monday, 1st March, 2021 at Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Councillor M Goldsmith (Chairman)
Councillor D Edwardes (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M Benson, S Davies, H Faddes, K Flavell, L Gilbert, A Harewood,
S Handley, L Roberts, L Smetham and J Weatherill

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Davies- Democratic Services Officer
Nashwan Fazlani- Legal Officer
Sarah Sutton- Licensing Officer

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors James Barber, Iain McFarlane and John Wray.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness and transparency, Councillor Lloyd Roberts declared that he was a Premises License Holder for a Public House in Macclesfield.

23 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 02 March 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25 MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Councillor David Edwardes noted that there were some omissions in four sets of Licensing Act Sub-Committee minutes to do with accuracy:

2 October 2020: Councillor David Edwardes was not present at this meeting, it was Councillors Sally Handley, Mike Benson and Mark Goldsmith

30 October 2020 and 24 November 2020, in both sets of these minutes, Councillor Mark Goldsmith was omitted from the attendance list on the first page.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the accuracy changes highlighted, that the minutes of the following meetings be received:

Licensing Act Sub-Committee

4 August 2020
19 August 2020
9 September 2020
14 September 2020
28 September 2020
2 October 2020
20 October 2020
30 October 2020
6 November 2020
24 November 2020
14 December 2020
15 December 2020
5 February 2021

26 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MOBILE HOMES ACT 2013- FEES AND CHARGES POLICY 2021-2022

The Committee considered a report regarding the proposed Regulatory Services and Health Mobile Homes Act 2013 Fees and Charges Policy 2021-22.

In accordance with the Mobile Homes Act 2013, the Council was required to review the fees and charges policy for the Licensing functions associated with residential caravan sites. As part of the annual review the Council must ensure the costs were being covered for administering the licensing regime for these sites.

The fee the site owner were required to pay was dependant on the number of pitches that the site had planning permission for within a banding structure on a cost-recovery basis.

Licensing Officer, Sarah Sutton advised that the fee was set using a time-recording calculation to reflect Officer time and experience. This gives the opportunity for costs to increase or decrease. For 2021-2022 there had been between a £4 increase for smaller sites through to a £32 increase for the largest sites this reflected a greater inspection and administration time required for larger sites.

Fees that related to Site license transfer fee and the amendment of conditions had not changed from the previous year as the costs were calculated and found to be correctly reflected with no change necessary.

The Committee reviewed the Application and Annual Fee for 2021-2022 and noted that the difference in cost banding between:

10-20 pitches was £43;

20-30 pitches was £49;
30-40 pitches was £77;
40-50 pitches was £45; and
from 50 pitches upwards was £79

There was some discussion about the seemingly uneven rise in costs between 30-40 pitches, but the Licensing Officer Sarah Sutton advised the calculation took into account the officer grades and the amount of time that each task took. From 40 and above pitches, more time was required from officers of a higher grade which would impact on the final fee.

The Committee asked how many sites there were in Cheshire East. Sarah advised there were approximately 70 of sites across the borough, and there were a mix, with some sites as recreational only. Approximately 30 sites had to pay this fee as there is a proportion of residential or fully residential.

RESOLVED:

That the Regulatory Services and Health Mobile Homes Act 2013 Fees and Charges Policy 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.23 pm

Councillor M Goldsmith (Chairman)