

Minutes

Public Protection Committee



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| Date: | Friday, 27 March 2015 |
| Venue: | Town Hall, St Annes |
| Committee members: | Councillor Angela Jacques (Chairman) Councillor Dawn Prestwich (Vice Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Keith Beckett ^{ISO} , Alan Clayton, John Davies, Tony Ford ^{JP} , Gail Goodman, Ken Hopwood and Barbara Nash. |
| Other councillors: | None |
| Officers: | Clare Lord, Chris Hambly, Michael Duck and Sharon Wadsworth |
| Other attendees: | PS |

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 25 February 2015 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23(c):

There were no substitutions.

4. Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers Licence

Chris Hambly, Principal Licensing Officer, presented a report concerning a licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver who had recently notified the Licensing Team of a conviction for falsely claiming benefits. The offence related to the seven month period between March 2013 to October 2013. Mr Hambly informed the members that the applicant had notified the Licensing Team in March 2014 that there was a pending investigation against him and he had then written in to the Licensing Team in February 2015 confirming that he had pleaded guilty to falsely claiming benefits.

The applicant was invited to address the committee and responded to questions from members in relation to the offence and conviction.

Members briefly adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held before announcing the decision of the committee.

The committee considered the report and the information supplied by PS the applicant and RESOLVED to issue him with a warning letter.

(Councillor Barbara Nash was not present during consideration and voting on Item 4)

5. Mobile Homes Fee Policy for Licensing of Residential Mobile Home Sites

Michael Duck, Senior Environmental Health Officer, presented the report that detailed changes to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 following the implementation of the Mobile Homes Act 2013 that empower Local Authorities to charge fees, on a cost recovery basis, for their licensing functions in respect of “relevant protected sites” of which there are 21 in Fylde.

Mr Duck advised that the fees would relate to functions including annual site inspections, new site licence applications, applications to amend site licence conditions, applications to transfer an existing site licence and requests to deposit, amend or delete site rules. Single pitch sites would be exempt from the annual fee only.

He explained that the level of the fees would be revisited before 31 March 2016 to ensure that they were on a cost recovery basis only.

Mr Duck brought to the members’ attention several amendments that were required to be made to the Mobile Homes Fee Policy before approval. These were as follows:

- I. One set of words “site is” to be removed from paragraph 6.8 of the Policy.
- II. The insertion of “to” between “power” and “serve” on paragraph 7.6.
- III. Replace “chare” with “a charge” on paragraph 7.8.
- IV. Heading 10.0 to read “Appendix 1 – Guidance from DCLG – setting out of activities to be included in setting of Site Licensing Fees”
- V. Reference to “annual fee” in paragraph 10.1 to be replaced with “site licensing fee”.
- VI. Heading in paragraph 10.1 to be amended to read “Setting Site Licensing Fees”.

Following a discussion it was RESOLVED to approve to adopt the Mobile Homes Fee Policy for Residential Protected Sites, under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 as detailed in appendix 1 to the report subject to the amendments as stated above.

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