

LICENSING COMMITTEE - PREMISES AND GAMBLING

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee - Premises and Gambling held on Wednesday, 26 March 2025 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.00 am

Committee

Members Present:

Cllr P Fisher (Chairman)	Cllr T Adams
Cllr K Bayes	Cllr J Boyle
Cllr A Brown	Cllr T FitzPatrick
Cllr P Porter	

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr D Birch (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr M Batey
Cllr H Blathwayt
Cllr N Housden
Cllr G Mancini-Boyle
Cllr E Spagnola
Cllr L Withington

Officers in attendance:

Democratic Services Officer
(Regulatory)

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Batey, Birch, Blathwayt, Housden, Mancini-Boyle, Spagnola and Withington

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

5 PERMANENT PAVEMENT LICENSING POLICY

The EM introduced the report as set out within the agenda and the Chair invited any questions from members.

The Chair asked about the likely fees applications and whether the fees would be sufficient to cover those applications which were more complicated and took up Officers time. The EM confirmed that the fees would be calculated on a full cost recovery basis and would, on average, cover all the costs. She indicated that the likely fees would be in the region of £160 for the 2 year Licence.

Cllr Bayes asked about the timeline for businesses to make applications and whether NNDC fees were comparable to other authorities. The EM confirmed that businesses had always had to make applications, this change was combining the role of administering the applications and enforcing the policy. With regard to comparison of likely fees, NNDC would be very favourable compared to other local authorities, who in some instances, were charging £350.

Cllr FitzPatrick commented that he supported the full cost recovery charging model and was generally in favour of licencing for this matter as it would benefit local areas keeping pavements clear and tidy as well as local businesses.

Cllr Adams sought confirmation that this policy wouldn't give the Council responsibilities in other areas where the pavement might be blocked by others and that utility providers would always be able to get access to pavement areas. The EM confirmed that the enforcement powers only related to pavement furniture and that access for utilities would be unaffected. Cllr Adams commented on the list of proposed consultees for applications and queried whether a smaller list or optional consultees would prevent delays. The EM confirmed these consultees were not required by statute.

Cllr Brown said it was important to ensure access to pavements for those with limited mobility, and asked what the criteria was in relation to applications. He also asked whether local members would be notified of such applications and how would members of the public be notified.

The EM confirmed that the Statute laid down rules regarding ensuring disability access which was part of the application process. An improved process for dealing with applications was being developed and it was envisaged that part of that process would be informing local members of applications. The applications would also be published online, at the premises in question and at NNDC office.

Cllr Bayes asked about liability insurance and who was liable for issues such as damage to pavements. The EM confirmed that part of the application required the business to provide a copy of their liability insurance.

It was proposed by Cllr Boyle seconded by Cllr Porter

And **RESOLVED** unanimously

That the Permanent Pavement Licensing Policy be approved with effect from 1 April 2025

6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not applicable

7 ANY OTHER URGENT EXEMPT BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND AS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED UNDER ITEM 4 ABOVE

None

The meeting ended at 10.20 am.

Chairman