



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Environment and Licensing Committee

Date: **Tuesday 30 March 2021**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Virtual Meeting**

For any further information please contact:

Democratic Services

committees@gedling.gov.uk

0115 901 3844

Environment and Licensing Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Marje Paling

Vice-Chair Councillor Nicki Brooks

Councillor Pat Bosworth
Councillor Boyd Elliott
Councillor Roxanne Ellis
Councillor Des Gibbons
Councillor Julie Najuk
Councillor Sam Smith
Councillor Clive Towsey-Hinton
Councillor John Truscott
Councillor Paul Wilkinson

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AGENDA

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| 2 | To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 | 5 - 7 |
| 3 | Declaration of Interests. | |
| 4 | Taxi Licensing Fees for 2021/22 | 9 - 27 |
| | Report of Corporate Director for Environment, Communities and Leisure. | |
| 5 | Any other item which the Chair considers urgent. | |

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Agenda Item 2

MINUTES ENVIRONMENT AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 9 March 2021

Councillor Marje Paling (Chair)

Present:	Councillor Nicki Brooks Councillor Pat Bosworth Councillor Boyd Elliott Councillor Roxanne Ellis Councillor Des Gibbons	Councillor Julie Najuk Councillor Clive Towsey-Hinton Councillor John Truscott Councillor Paul Wilkinson
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Absent: Councillor Sam Smith

Officers in Attendance: C Allcock, A Dubberley and P Gibbs

70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith.

71 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

72 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

73 STATUTORY TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE STANDARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Environment and Communities and Leisure advising members of the recommendations of the working group, appointed to consider the impact of the Department of Transport's Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards on the Council's policies, procedures and conditions.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the recommendations of the working group; and
- 2) Approve that the matters contained at Appendix 1 and 2 of the report be issued for an eight week public consultation.

74 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

75 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED:

That, the Members being satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing reports on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

76 APPLICATION FOR A ONE YEAR JOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE (AMS)

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Environment, Communities and Leisure, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, regarding an application for a one year joint Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence for AMS.

AMS attended the meeting, along with a friend, and addressed the committee.

In making its decision, the Committee applied the Council's approved Policy and Guidelines. On the basis of what it heard, the Committee was satisfied on balance that no exceptional circumstances existed which warranted departure from policy.

RESOLVED:

To refuse AMS's application for a Joint Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

AMS was advised of the right of appeal against the decision of the Committee.

77 APPLICATION FOR A ONE YEAR JOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE (AI)

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of Environment, Communities and Leisure, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, regarding an application for a one year joint Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence for AI.

AI attended the meeting and addressed the committee.

In making its decision, the Committee applied the Council's approved Policy and Guidelines. On the basis of what it heard, the Committee was satisfied on balance that no exceptional circumstances existed which warranted departure from policy.

RESOLVED:

To refuse AI's application for a Joint Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

AI was advised of the right of appeal against the decision of the Committee.

78

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE OF JOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE

Councillor Bosworth joined the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Environment Communities and Leisure, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, regarding a change of circumstances following information received about the holder of a Joint Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Driver's Licence.

NS attended the meeting and addressed the Committee.

In making the decision the Committee applied the Council's approved Policy and Guidelines.

RESOLVED:

To suspend NS's licence for 28 days.

NS was given 21 days to surrender his licence and was advised of his right to appeal against the decision of the Committee.

The meeting finished at 4.15 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:

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Report to Environment and Licensing Committee

Subject: Taxi Licensing Fees for 2021/22

Date: 30 March 2021

Author: Corporate Director for Environment, Communities and Leisure

Purpose

To approve the proposed increase from 1st April 2021 of fees for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for 2021/22 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of the objections that have been received by the Council shown at Appendix 2.

Recommendation(s)

That Members:

Approve the increase from 1st April 2021 of fees for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for 2021/22 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of the objections that have been received by the Council at Appendix 2.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members are reminded that during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 Members resolved not to increase the fees for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for the financial year 2020/21. This was in recognition of the continuing difficulties faced by the taxi trade during the pandemic and the fees remained at the 2019/20 level. Therefore the fees for driver, operator and vehicle licences have not been increased since April 2019.

- 1.2 At the meeting held on 9 February 2021 it was resolved that:

Members approve the fees for taxi driver, operators and vehicle licences as detailed in Appendix 2 for 2021/22 for advertisement in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, such fees to automatically come into force if no objections are received within the statutory period. If any objections are received within the statutory period that these be referred back to Committee for consideration in accordance with the legislation.

- 1.3 The proposed fees for driver, operator and vehicle licences (Appendix 1) were published in accordance with the legislation and the consultation was open for 28 days. During this period there have been 13 objections.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Members approve the increase of fees from 1st April 2021 for taxi driver, operator and vehicle licences for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 1, subject to consideration of the objections that have been received by the Council at Appendix 2.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 That the fee increase is not approved resulting in the Council not operating the service at full cost recovery.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposed fees and charges are designed to ensure that the service operates on a full cost recovery basis

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 None

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Taxi driver, vehicles and operator proposed fees 2020/21
Appendix 2 – Objections to the proposed increase in fees for driver, operator and vehicle licences.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None



Proposed Public Protection fees 2021/22

Type of Fee	2020/21 - £	Approx.% increase	2021/22 - £
Taxi Licence			
Driver Licence Fee 1 year	150	5.5	158
Driver Licence Fee 3 year – (If a 3 year licence is refused or not granted for any reason £100 of the application fee will be refunded to the applicant)	388	5.5	409
Vehicle Licence Fee	146	5.5	154
Operator's Licence 1 year	111 plus 111 per additional vehicle	5.5	117 plus 117 per additional vehicle
Operator's Licence 3 year	588 plus 166 per additional vehicle	5.5	620 plus 175 per additional vehicle

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 February 2021 14:18

To: Kevin Nealon <Kevin.Nealon@gedling.gov.uk>

Subject:

Dear Mr Nealon,

I write to object to the proposed increase in licencing charges for 2021, we are in a lockdown,

Work has dried up,

This is not the time.

Yours.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 February 2021 14:13

To: Kevin Nealon <Kevin.Nealon@gedling.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Licencing increase

Dear Kevin Nealon

I am writing to you to object to the proposed increase in taxi licensing charges from the 1st April 2021. Gedling Borough Council hasn't given grants to the majority of their licensed drivers but wants to charge all their licensed drivers extra. Most of other Boroughs have given their licensed drivers grants and some have even reduced their licenscng fees. And I urge Gedling Borough to follow suit.

Most drivers are still struggling to make end meet. This proposed increase will only make matters much worse.

Gedling Borough Council should be named and shamed on BBC's Rip of Britain. I look forward to your reply. Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 18 February 2021 15:11
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: Fwd: Objection to Licencing increase

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: 18 February 2021 at 14:13:32 GMT
To: kevin.nealon@gedling.gov.uk
Subject: Objection to Licencing increase

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you to object to the proposed increase in taxi licensing charges from the 1st April 2021. Gedling Borough Council hasn't given grants to the majority of their licensed drivers but wants to charge all their licensed drivers extra. Most of other Boroughs have given their licensed drivers grants and some have even reduced their licensing fees. And I urge Gedling Borough to follow suit.

Most drivers are still struggling to make end meet. This proposed increase will only make matters much worse.

Gedling Borough Council should be named and shamed on BBC's Rip of Britain. I look forward to your reply. Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 22 February 2021 17:18
To: Kevin Nealon <Kevin.Nealon@gedling.gov.uk>
Subject: Proposed Increases.

Dear Mr Nealon

Re: Proposed Increase in Licensing Charges

I trust you are keeping well.

I write to object to the proposed increase in taxi licencing charges proposed for 1st April 2021

The trade is still very much struggling and will be subjected to further hardship.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]>
Date: 9 March 2021 at 17:39:37 GMT
To: Marje Paling <Cllr.Marje.Paling@gedling.gov.uk>
Subject: Increasing fees

Dear Councillor Paling

My name is [REDACTED] I am a Gedling Borough Council licensed taxi driver.
[REDACTED]

I am writing to ask that you as, Chair of the Licensing Committee reject the proposal to increase Taxi Licensing Fees, proposed from April 2021.

We are still in the middle of a pandemic and still under lockdown almost going under with stress.

It's only been a few months since the Committee blocked the rise in taxi charges.

Nothing, has changed, we are still struggling, even more so, because some of us could not get the GBC grant.

Frankly I am surprised that licensing is going for an increase. Please reject the increase and ask licensing not to put any more increases in until the pandemic is over.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kevin Nealon](#)
Subject: Fwd: Proposed licensing fee increase April 2021.
Date: 18 February 2021 19:48:06

>
>
> Attention of Kevin Nealon
> GBC taxi licensing dept.
>
> I am really astonished that GBC are intending to increase licensing fees from April 2021.
> GBC have given all their licensed drivers who reside in the Gedling borough a Government Grant, but for those drivers who live outside the GBC borough, there NOT entitled to diddly squat.
> We have been fogged OFF by Mike Hill and his colleagues.
> I live in the Nottm City Council district and have applied for a grant with and NCC have repeatedly said that you are NOT badged with US so therefore plz approach Your own licensing authority (GBC), which have a criteria in place to take on drivers outside their borough but then Refuse to pay them any support grant whatsoever.
> Well done GBC in NOT supporting drivers who reside outside your borough (GBC like to take on drivers who reside out the borough but refuse to support these drivers, who keep GBC in business).
> And now GBC are proposing to increase the licensing fees, come on this is clearly taking the Piss.
> Firstly we are refused a grant and now you want to increase the licence fee, have GBC NO SHAME.
> I strongly object to the bleeding of the drivers, many drivers have left the trade. GBC should be helping drivers NOT digging our graves and pushing us into it.
> Have some respect and decency for your hard working drivers who keep GBC afloat.
>
> Yours
> [REDACTED]).
>

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: 18 February 2021 at 18:47:42 GMT
To: Marje Paling <Cllr.Marje.Paling@gedling.gov.uk>
Subject: Taxi Licensing fee

Dear Councillor Paling

It's been only a few months since the Committee blocked the rise in taxi charges. Nothing, has changed, we are still struggling, even more so, because some of us could not get the GBC grant. Frankly I am surprised that licensing is going for an increase. Please reject the increase and ask licensing not to put any more increases in until the pandemic is over.

Thank you



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]>
Date: 24 February 2021 at 14:44:40 GMT
To: Marje Paling <Cllr.Marje.Paling@gedling.gov.uk>
Subject: Taxi Licensing

Dear Councillor Paling

I trust you are keeping well.

I refer to the Environment and Licensing Committee meeting of 1st of December 2021, where you and other councillors spoke about the plight of the taxi trade. Let me take this opportunity to thank you and other committee members for rejecting the proposed increases.

I understand that taxi licensing has put in a request to increase charges from 1st April 2021. Again, I am at a loss why this has been proposed. Conditions for taxi drivers have not improved since December 2020; they have actually worsened due to the current lockdown and the cumulative effects of little or no work since March 2019.

I ask, on behalf of the trade, that the committee reject the increase on the same grounds as before and request that taxi licensing not put in for any further increases until the pandemic has subsided.

Thanking you in advance.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Gedling Licensed Drivers Association

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus
software.

www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kevin Nealon](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed licensing fee increase April 2021.
Date: 18 February 2021 19:40:10

Attention of Kevin Nealon
GBC taxi licensing dept.

I am really astonished that GBC are intending to increase licensing fees from April 2021.
GBC have given all their licensed drivers who reside in the Gedling borough a Government Grant, but for those drivers who live outside the GBC borough, there NOT entitled to diddly squat.

We have been fogged OFF by Mike Hill and his colleagues.

I live in the Nottm City Council district and have applied for a grant with and NCC have repeatedly said that you are NOT badged with US so therefore plz approach Your own licensing authority (GBC), which have a criteria in place to take on drivers outside their borough but then Refuse to pay them any support grant whatsoever.

Well done GBC in NOT supporting drivers who reside outside your borough (GBC like to take on drivers who reside out the borough but refuse to support these drivers, who keep GBC in business).

And now GBC are proposing to increase the licensing fees, come on this is clearly taking the Piss.

Firstly we are refused a grant and now you want to increase the licence fee, have GBC NO SHAME.

I strongly object to the bleeding of the drivers, many drivers have left the trade. GBC should be helping drivers NOT digging our graves and pushing us into it.

Have some respect and decency for your hard working drivers who keep GBC afloat.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 22 February 2021 20:45

To: Kevin Nealon <Kevin.Nealon@gedling.gov.uk>

Subject:

Mr nealon..

I am writing this email to object to the increase in the licensing fees... We are all still struggling with drivers leaving the job every week to do other things... We might be able to see some light at the end of the tunnel but we have some way to go yet... The increase in fees will be the last straw for some in the trade... Please think again.....

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kevin Nealon](#)
Subject: Taxi fees increase.
Date: 18 February 2021 19:19:38

Dear Mr Nealon

I am writing to say that I object to the proposed increase in licensing charges for April 2021. It's a real shame on Gedling borough council to bring these increased fees in whilst we taxi driver's are in the Coronavirus pandemic..I just hope Gedling borough council listen and see sense in order to help all their taxi drivers to STOP these increased fees coming in. The committee did listen to taxi drivers last time and should do the decent thing now or we will be forced to hand in our badges. Most of us are doing Deliveries at the moment just to get by as there is not much taxi work



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kevin Nealon](#)
Subject: Taxi licensing fee
Date: 18 February 2021 18:44:20

Dear Mr Nealon

I write to say that I do not agree that GBC should be putting up the taxi license charges. I am already struggling to put food on the table. I am surprised that you are doing this again. So Soon! The lockdown is still here!

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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23/2/21

Objection to Fee Increase

I wish to object to the proposed fee increase for April 1st 2021. The current rate of inflation is 0.7% yet again your proposal is of the order of 6% as usual. In view of the current climate and the inability of the taxi trade to be able to access support grants due to this councils actions, I believe this to be unacceptable.

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