

Minute Extract

Licensing Committee

Venue:	Microsoft Teams - Remote
Date:	Thursday, 20 August 2020
Time:	10.00 am
Present remotely via Teams:	Councillors K Ellis (Chair), R Sweeting (Vice-Chair), J Chilvers, S Duckett, I Chilvers, T Grogan, J Duggan, M McCartney and P Welch
Officers present remotely via Teams:	Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Jade Reynolds, Solicitor, Sharon Cousins, Licensing Manager; and Dawn Drury, Democratic Services Officer

7 TEMPORARY PAVEMENT LICENSES

The Licensing Manager presented the report which updated the Committee on the urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee on the 24 July and 31 July 2020.

The Committee were informed that the Business and Planning Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 22 July 2020 and came into force immediately, the Act introduced a new Pavement Licence to provide a fast track procedure for the grant of a licence through temporary changes to the current regulatory procedures until 30 September 2021. It was further explained that this was a new responsibility for the Council and the Council had to react expediently to put a procedure in place.

Members heard that on 31 July 2020, the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Licensing Committee, agreed to lower the fee for the pavement licence from £100 to £50 to help businesses further during the COVID pandemic.

Discussion took place regarding waiving the pavement licence fee as the Committee felt that it was not appropriate to charge when the Council could be helping the small businesses who had been hit by the pandemic. One of the Members had contacted other local councils; Bradford, Wakefield and Leeds amongst others and found they had not introduced the fee.

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer confirmed that if the Committee were all in agreement that it was within their remit to set fees, and a decision could be taken at the meeting.

The Committee were informed that the original decisions made by the Chief Executive and the Chairman of Licensing Committee attached at Appendix 1 would still be reported to Council, and that no applications had been determined for a pavement licence so there would be no impact if the fee were now set at £0.

It was proposed, and seconded that the pavement licence fee be waived, the vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

To note the urgent decisions taken and refer the same to Council for noting, and to waive the fee for Pavement Licences.

Reason for decision:

To help support businesses within the Selby district to recover from the disruption caused by COVID-19 and to succeed in these challenging times, while allowing members of the public to benefit from this outdoor environment.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.