

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD AT
FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2022**

MEMBERS

- * Cllr D Brown - Chairman
- * Cllr R Rowe - Vice-Chairman

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| * Cllr J M Hodgson | * Cllr K Pringle |
| ∅ Cllr T R Holway | * Cllr H Reeve |
| ∅ Cllr K Kemp | * Cllr P C Smerdon |
| ∅ Cllr D O'Callaghan | ∅ Cllr J Sweett |
| * Cllr G Pannell | * Cllr D Thomas |

- * Denotes attendance
- ∅ Denotes apology for absence

Officers in attendance and participating:

Lawyer; Licensing Contractor; Licensing Officer; and Democratic Services Specialist

L.01/22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 31 March 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

L.02/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. There were no declarations made.

**L.03/22 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH HAMS HACKNEY
CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF**

The Officer gave an update to the report explaining that Objection 4 was incorrect. The previous meeting tariff had not been disclosed by any councillor, and specifically not Cllr Rowe. The decision had been reached in a public meeting therefore the information was available to all through attendance or viewing online. Cllr Rowe confirmed she did not speak to the BBC in any shape or form.

Following the approved proposed amendment to the South Hams Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff at the previous Committee meeting on 31st March 2022, the proposed amendment had been sent out for consultation. Objections had been received to the proposal, requiring the amendment to return to Committee for further review.

The four options, as outlined in the attendant report, were presented to Committee. Following questions from the Committee, it was clarified that:

- Many drivers had requested fares to be rounded up to avoid having to carry lots of small change;
- Although many cabs had card readers, the rural nature of the District meant that these could not always be relied upon as a payment method;
- The additional 10p charge, which could be added when fuel reached a particular level outlined in the AA (Automobile Association) monthly report on fuel costs, was only 10p per journey, not per mile.

The Committee was attended by a representative of Totnes Taxis Ltd, who was invited to speak by the Chairman. Mr Routledge, one of the directors of Totnes Taxis, explained that he had spoken to around 50 of the 130 drivers operating in South Hams, who were asking for an increase of 20% as opposed to 12%.

Following discussions with the representative, the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes for the officers to work out a fifth option for consideration.

Upon reconvening the meeting, the Committee were presented with option 5, as outlined below:

A proposal by Totnes Taxis Ltd, with the flag rate set at £3.20 (a 14.2% raise on the current flag rate), and the subsequent distance reduced from 170yds to 150yds (20p per 150yds as opposed to 20p per 170yds as existing), leading to a 31.5% rise on the 2 mile fare.

It was then:

RESOLVED:

That the Licensing Committee **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Modification to the table of maximum fares approved for consultation on 31 March 2022, as a result of the consultation responses received;
2. That the option chosen was option 5 as outlined above;
3. That the modifications to the maximum fares take effect on 21 June 2022.

(Meeting commenced at 2:30 pm and concluded at 3:40 pm).

Chairman