

Report No. 2

Report to Town Hall and Facilities Committee

Music Licence

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide the committee with information concerning the cost of a music licence for the Town Hall and the financial implications on the Town Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the last meeting the committee requested clarification about the charges made to the Town Council in respect of a music licence.
- 2.2 All premises using live or recorded music are required to hold a music licence, the purpose of which is to ensure composers and performers receive the royalties due to them.
- 2.3 For many years there were two separate organisations, the Public Performance Licensing (PPL) and the Performing Rights Society (PRS). They have now combined resources to form the PPLPRS.
- 2.4 Previously the Town Council received a standard invoice each year for the PRS but now in recent years the invoice is based upon the number of different events that take place in the Town Hall involving music, both live and recorded.
- 2.5 Until this year the invoice related only to the PRS licence but this year the invoice contained an additional charge for the PPL element, backdated a year.
- 2.6 The result was to increase the invoice price from £1,573 to £2,716.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 The Town Clerk endeavoured to challenge the invoice but emails and telephone calls and letters went unanswered for over two months.
- 3.2 More recently the Town Clerk managed to speak directly to the collections team and negotiated a more realistic fee based on actual usage supported by documents retrieved from our booking system.
- 3.3 The invoice now received has been reduced to £1,162.
- 3.4 The reduction was secured on the basis that for the majority of events held at the Town Hall the Town Council is only the provider of the room, not the activity.
- 3.5 The Town Council is responsible for ensuring that the premises are covered by the PRS requirements of the music licence but individual hirers need to ensure they provide cover under the PPL section. Enforcement is not the role of the Town Council.
- 3.6 In the event that the Town Council are hosting an event involving music then the Town Council would be liable for the additional charge.
- 3.7 Examples of the charges for both sections are shown in the attached Appendix.

4. Financial implications and risks

- 4.1 The fees charged by the PPLPRS are shown in the Appendix to this report and are not currently charged to individual hirers based on the activity undertaken. They are included within the hire fee for the room.
- 4.2 Previously hirers were charged a supplement if the activity required a PRS licence.
- 4.3 The current room hire fees include VAT at standard rate, staff salary costs, energy and the PRS where relevant.
- 4.4 Enquiries of other public halls comparable with the Town Hall revealed that a fee was charged for any activity requiring a PRS licence.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are requested to note the report and consider the extra costs involved when reviewing hire fees.

Jeff Penfold
Town Clerk
20th February 2019

Appendix

Fees for PPLPRS Music Licence (Town Hall)

PRS

Aerobic, Keep Fit and Dance	£1.91 per session of no more than 30 attending
Live music	£12.91 for capacity of 120
DJ sessions	£15.52 for capacity 130
Film and cinema shows	£6.45 for each showing capacity of 120

PPL

Disco, DJs and Dances	£9.03 per 4 hour session for up to 60 attending
Exercise to music	£1.57 per session

All prices plus VAT at Standard Rate 20%