

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER
2016**

Present:

Councillor Hutton (in the Chair)

Councillors

Maycock Robertson BEM Singleton L Taylor

In Attendance:

Mrs Sharon Davies, Head of Licensing Service
Chris Williams, Democratic Services Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the whole item, including the decision referred to at Agenda items 4, 5 and 6 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCES

The Sub-Committee was informed of two existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle drivers and a new Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver applicant that had given sufficient cause for concern as to be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

Members discussed the applications and referrals as follows:

- (i) HM – Existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver

HM was in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

The complainant was also in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

Mr Mark Marshall, Licensing and, Health and Safety Manager, and Mr Ian Taylor, Public Protection Officer, were in attendance and presented the case on behalf of the Authority.

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The Sub-Committee was informed of an incident in which the complainant alleged that the driver had demonstrated aggressive and threatening behaviour towards her whilst carrying out his duties as a licensed driver.

The driver and the complainant presented differing accounts of the incident and the Sub-Committee expressed concerns about allegations made by both parties. In view of the lack of evidence the Members were unable to make a determination on the conduct alleged. Members also discussed the driver's admitted conduct in leaving his vehicle and approaching the complainant's vehicle and whether his behaviour was in keeping with the standards expected of a licensed driver. They determined that it was not, however, the Sub-Committee also considered a lack of evidence in relation to the majority of the incident and the driver's previously clean track record as a licensed driver.

Resolved:

That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver should receive a severe warning letter for behaving in a manner that caused distress to a member of the public and indicated that in the event of further offences, suspension or revocation of the licence would be the likely outcome.

(ii) GIJ – Existing Private Hire Vehicle Driver

GIJ was in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

Mr Marshall, and Mr Shaun Louth, Blackpool Council Vehicle Technician, who was also in attendance, presented the case on behalf of the Authority.

The Sub-Committee noted that the driver had allowed his vehicle to enter a state of disrepair and during the course of a routine inspection, the vehicle was found to have a number of serious defects, several of which were classed as MOT failure faults.

The driver admitted to lapses with the vehicle's maintenance regime and expressed regret at what had happened. He added that he had since put in place measures designed to ensure that a similar situation would not arise in the future.

Members considered the driver's experience and previously clean track record. However, the Sub-Committee reasoned that the number and nature of the vehicle faults were of concern especially as some should have been identified even upon casual inspection.

Resolved:

To issue the driver with a warning letter in relation to his conduct indicating that if he was brought before the Sub-Committee again in the future, suspension or revocation of the licence would be the likely outcome.

(iii) WTM - New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver Applicant

WTM was in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

Mr Ryan Radcliffe, Licensing Officer, who was also in attendance, presented the case on behalf of the Authority.

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The Sub-Committee was informed that the applicant had previously been convicted of a drink driving offence.

The applicant explained that in relation to the offence, he had made a poor decision and regretted his actions. He added that a number of years had passed without further incident and he had also attended a relevant awareness course to reduce the terms of his sentence.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the nature of the offence was serious. However, members noted that some four years had elapsed since the offence and the driver appeared to demonstrate genuine remorse.

Resolved:

To grant the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence with the addition of a warning letter in relation to future conduct indicating that if the driver was brought before the Sub-Committee again in the future, suspension or revocation of the licence would be the likely outcome.

Background papers: exempt

5 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

The Sub-Committee was informed of an existing Private Hire Vehicle Licence holder that had given sufficient cause for concern as to be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

Members discussed the referral as follows:

GIJ –Existing Private Hire Vehicle Licence holder

GIJ was in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

During consideration of the same driver's Private Hire Driver's Licence at Agenda Item 3, the Sub-Committee decided to issue the driver with a warning letter in relation to the maintenance issues identified on his vehicle.

Resolved:

To take no further action in relation to the Private Hire Vehicle Licence.

Background papers: exempt

6 DONKEY DRIVERS LICENCE

The Sub-Committee was informed of an application for a Donkey Driver's Licence that had given sufficient cause for concern as to be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

Mr Ratcliffe presented the case on behalf of the Local Authority.

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The applicant, ASL was in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee was advised of two incidents involving the applicant, one of which had involved violence.

The applicant described difficult circumstances surrounding the convictions and accepted responsibility for his actions. In addition, three character references were circulated to Members that described the applicant in favourable terms.

The Sub-Committee reasoned that the applicant seemed to demonstrate remorse for his actions and had the support of others in the form of character references. However, members expressed concern at both the nature and recency of the applicant's offences and agreed that insufficient time had elapsed since the offences for the application to be approved.

Resolved:

That the application for a Donkey Driver's Licence be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person due to the nature and recency of his offences.

Background papers: exempt

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 8 November 2016.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.57 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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