

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY
2021**

Present:

Councillor Hutton (in the Chair)

Councillors

Mrs Callow JP
Collett

Critchley
Farrell

Hunter
D Scott

R Scott
Wilshaw

In Attendance:

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Support Manager

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Advisor

Sharon Davies, Senior Licensing Solicitor

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 08 DECEMBER 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved: That under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item Three, Private Hire Driver.

4 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE

The Sub-Committee considered a licence holder, PAS, who had been convicted of offences or who had otherwise given reasons for concern.

Mr Ryan Ratcliffe, Licensing Enforcement Officer, presented the case to the Sub-Committee. He informed Members that PAS was an existing Private Hire Driver's licence holder, who had previously appeared before the Sub-Committee due to a number of historical convictions when they first applied to be licensed in March 2011 and was granted a licence with a severe warning letter at that time.

Members were informed that on 16 October 2020 the Licensing Service received a complaint from a Blackpool Council Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) in relation to verbal abuse received from a Private Hire Driver during the course of their duties. The driver, identified from bodycam footage by the Licensing Service as PAS, used foul language towards the CEO having been given a Penalty Charge Notice for parking next to a school's

MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021

“keep clear” zig zag markings. Mr Ratcliffe suggested that such behaviour falls well below that expected of a licensed driver and asked the Sub-Committee to give careful consideration to PAS’s fitness and propriety to continue to be licensed.

Footage from the CEO’s body camera was played to the Sub-Committee which showed PAS verbally remonstrating with the CEO from within their vehicle. In response to questions from Members, PAS explained that they had only briefly parked there on the request of their passenger who lived at a property near the school. PAS confirmed they remained in their car with the engine still running whilst the passenger disembarked and that they only left their vehicle once the CEO had issued the ticket before driving away. They accepted their behaviour did not demonstrate the level of courtesy and respect expected from a licensed driver and advised the Sub-Committee that they regretted their behaviour during the incident.

The Sub-Committee considered the information submitted by all parties. While agreeing that the conduct of PAS fell below acceptable standards, the remorse of the driver was noted and on balance Members did not feel it was appropriate to suspend or revoke their licence.

Resolved: That a severe warning letter be issued in respect of the incident that in the event of future issues the licence may be suspended or revoked.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 23 February 2021

Chairman

(The meeting ended 7.22 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Sarah Chadwick Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: (01253) 477153
E-mail: sarah.chadwick@blackpool.gov.uk