

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 22 March 2012

PRESENT:

Councillor Reynolds, in the Chair.
Councillor Delbridge, Vice Chair.
Councillors Bowie, Haydon and Rennie.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Churchill and Mrs Nicholson.

Also in attendance: George Curness (Licensing Officer), Sharon Day (Lawyer) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 12.00 pm and finished at 2.40 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

130. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

131. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2012 are confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendment minute 120 refers 'it had never been the intention for the report to be in part II'.

132. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that -

- (a) a report regarding the grant of medical exemptions would be submitted to the April meeting of the committee. The report would recommend the delegation of authority to grant wheelchair exemptions to officers;
- (b) a report would be brought to the April committee dealing with the fitness of vehicles hired from proprietors so that the matter could be fully discussed by the committee.

With regard to (b) above and with the permission of the Chair, the licensing officer provided the following summary –

- (c) a check had been undertaken, following concerns raised by the committee regarding the fitness of vehicles that were hired from proprietors;
- (d) the check had highlighted the following –
- one proprietor who owned eight vehicles had all his vehicles stopped within the last 16 months;
 - on 11 occasions faults had been found;
 - on four occasions the licenses had been suspended for tyre faults;
- (e) the proprietor had been contacted and had advised the licensing officer that he had a tyre contract with a local company who would replace any tyre that needed it and that he had a spare vehicle which could be used for emergency purposes;
- (f) the largest fleet owner had its own garage where tyres/repairs were undertaken; the proprietor also had a signed contract with the drivers stating that the driver should check the vehicle including the tyres on a daily basis.

(In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)9B) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair brought forward the above items for urgent consideration because of the need to inform councillors).

133. **APPEAL CASES**

The committee was advised that there had been no new appeal cases heard since the last meeting.

134. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

135. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES (E3 AND E7)**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

136. **APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - OAA (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Place;
- (b) heard from OAA.

The committee agreed to grant OAA a private hire driver's licence subject to him taking the driving test, knowledge of Plymouth test, medical examination and within the first 12 months of being licensed, complete the VRQ level II driver qualification in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or equivalent qualification.

(Please note there is a confidential minute to this minute).

137. **APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - NJM (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Place;
- (b) heard from NJM.

The committee agreed that rather than requiring the production of a certificate of good conduct they would require NJM to produce a statutory declaration confirming why he is not able to obtain a certificate of good conduct and also declaring any convictions he has received in the past. If there are no previous convictions then the declaration should record this. This should be produced to the licensing department who will then refer the matter back to committee if convictions are recorded or shall deal with the application if no relevant convictions are revealed.

(Please note there is a confidential part to this minute).

138. **APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A RESTRICTED PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - SNM (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Place;
- (b) heard from SNM and his representative.

The committee agreed SNM is granted a private hire driver's licence subject to a condition that the licence is restricted to providing airport and seaport transfers only; SNM is also required to take the driving test, medical examination and within the first 12 months of being licensed completed VRQ level II qualification in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or equivalent qualification.

(Please note there is a confidential part to this minute).

139. **APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE - CPB (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Place;
- (b) heard from CPB.

The committee agreed to grant CPB a hackney carriage driver's licence subject to him completing the driving test, knowledge of Plymouth test, medical examination and within the first 12 months of being licensed completing the VRQ level II driver qualification in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or equivalent qualification.

140. **APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE - AJR (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Place;
- (b) heard from AJR.

The committee agreed to grant AJR a hackney carriage driver's licence subject to him completing the driving test, knowledge of Plymouth test, medical examination and within the first 12 months of being licensed completing the VRQ level II driver qualification in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or equivalent qualification.

141. **LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION - SOH (E3 AND E7)**

The committee having –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Place;
- (b) heard from the licensing officer that due to the serious illness of SOH father he had requested an adjournment.

The committee agreed to adjourn this matter until such time as SOH requested it to be heard.