

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 11 December 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Jarvis, in the Chair.
Councillor Bowie, Vice Chair.
Councillors Mrs Foster, Fry, Mrs Nicholson, Rennie and Singh.

Also in attendance: Steve Forshaw (Licensing Officer), Andrea Gilbert (Legal Officer), Andy Netherton (Service Manager, Public Protection Service) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 3.00 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.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the code of conduct, Councillor Rennie declared a private interest in minute 95 and withdrew from the meeting.

87. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

88. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

The committee was advised that a letter had been received from Mr Hamilton of the Plymouth Licensed Taxi Association. It was not appropriate for the Taxi Licensing committee to consider the issues raised in the letter and the letter had been passed to Councillor Coker, Cabinet Member for Transport. A meeting to discuss the issues raised in the letter would be arranged between Councillor Coker, Mr Hamilton and Andy Netherton (Service Manager, Public Protection Service). Councillor Jarvis, as Chair of the Taxi Licensing committee would attend if required.

(Andy Netherton left the meeting after this item)

89. APPEAL CASES

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

90. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

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

Agreed that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

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

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from SMB;
- (c) took the above report and all that was said by SMB into consideration.

The committee agreed to grant SMB's application for a private hire driver's licence subject to him completing the Topographical Knowledge of Plymouth test and the VRQ driver qualification in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or equivalent, within 12 months of receiving his licence.

Note – Councillor Rennie voted against this decision.

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

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from SE;
- (c) took the above report and all that was said by SE into consideration.

The committee agreed to grant SE's application for a private hire driver's licence with no requirement to obtain any prerequisites.

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

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;

- (b) heard from AJL;
- (c) took the above report and all that was said by AJL into consideration.

The committee agreed to grant AJL's application for a hackney carriage driver's licence. They considered the time that had elapsed since the grant of his previous licence and while he was excused from sitting the Knowledge of Plymouth test, he would be required to produce a satisfactory medical certificate to the Licensing Department and also complete a Driving Standards test.

He would also be required to complete a VRQ in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or its equivalent within 12 months of receiving his licence. As this is the second time that members have made this stipulation, if the certificate is not produced by 10 December 2015, he will be brought before the committee and all sanctions against his licence will be considered at that time.

95. **REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE - HAR (E3 AND 37)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from HAR;
- (c) took the above report and all that was said by HAR into consideration.

The committee agreed that having taken the above into account to suspend HAR's licence for a period of five days under Section 19(1)(b) of the Plymouth City Council Act 1975. This constitutes one day in respect of the first offence and two days each for the second and third offences. A warning has also been issued which will remain on his file indefinitely and will be brought to the committee's attention if he appears before them again.

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

(Councillor Rennie declared a private interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting)

96. **REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - WAF (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from WAF;
- (c) heard from WAF's representative;
- (d) took the above report and all that was said by WAF and his representative into consideration.

The committee agreed that having taken the above into account to suspend WAF's private hire driver's licence for three days under Section 19(1)(b) of the Plymouth City Council Act 1975. This represents one day for the speeding offence, one day for not reporting that offence and one day for committing the offence within his probationary period. He has also been given a warning which will remain on his file indefinitely and will be brought to the committee's attention if he appears before them again.

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

(Councillor Bowie left the meeting after this item)

97. **REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - RGW (E3 AND E7)**

The Licensing Officer advised that RGW would not be attending the committee due to personal reasons. It was agreed that the matter would be adjourned to the next available committee.

98. **REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE - JSH (E3 AND E7)**

The committee was advised that JSH was unable to find representation in sufficient time before the committee hearing and it was agreed that the matter would be adjourned to the next available committee.