

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 23 November 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Kelly, the Chair.
Councillor K Foster, Vice Chair.
Councillors Bowie, Carson, Deacon, Mavin and Rennie.

Also in attendance: Andrea Gilbert (Lawyer), Steve Forshaw (Senior Enforcement Officer), Jamie Sheldon (Democratic Advisor) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10 am and finished at 10.54 am.

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.

56. **Declarations of Interest**

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

57. **Minutes**

Agreed the minutes of 26 October 2017 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

58. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

59. **Appeal Cases**

The Committee was advised that there were no new appeals.

60. **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 1, 2 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

61. **Confidential minutes**

Agreed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2017.

62. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence R.I**

The Committee –

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

The Committee agreed to act outside of its policy and grant R.I's application for a private hire driver's licence with an exemption from sitting the knowledge of Plymouth test subject to:

- (d) R.I completing the Child Sexual Exploitation Course within 12 months, however R.I is requested to attend the next available course;
- (e) R.I providing a medical certificate confirming he is fit to group II medical standards in line with all new applicants and completing the driving standards test due to the fact that he stated that he has not driven in any capacity for sixteen months.

63. **Review Status of Hackney Carriage Driver Licence A.J.A**

The Committee heard that the letter accompanying AJA's report had a typographical error which gave an incorrect date for the hearing. This meant that he did not receive sufficient formal notification of the hearing. The Committee also heard that in any event, AJA would not have attended the meeting today as his chosen legal representative was unable to attend with him until a date after 5 December 2017.

In view of the serious nature of the allegations made against AJA and with the safety of the public in mind, the Committee has elected not to adjourn until the next scheduled Taxi Licensing Committee at the end of December 2017 but have instead elected to set a date for an additional Taxi Licensing meeting which will be held on 8 December 2017.

The Committee strongly advised that AJA attend the hearing with his legal representative (if he chooses), as all possible sanctions against his licence, including revocation will be considered by the Committee on that date.