

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 26 September 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor Corvid, Vice Chair in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie and Riley.

Apology for absence: Councillor Mavin.

Also in attendance: Catherine Fox (Lawyer), Steve Forshaw (Senior Enforcement Officer) and Helen Prendergast (Democratic Adviser).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.50 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.

42. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the Code Conduct.

43. **Minutes**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2019 are confirmed as a correct record.

44. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

45. **Appeal Cases**

The Committee was advised that currently there were two appeal cases that were outstanding. One had been scheduled for 4 October 2019 and the other as previously advised had been re-listed for 29 November 2019.

46. **Exempt Information**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 to exclude the press and the public from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information act 2000.

47. **Confidential Minutes**

Agreed that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2019 are confirmed as a correct record.

48. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence**

Councillor Rennie sought the Legal Officer's advice regarding the legality of setting a time period for an applicant to re-apply for either Private Hire driver's licence or a Hackney Carriage driver's licence, as stated in the report and also the minutes of the Taxi Licensing Committee held on 25 October 2018.

The Legal Officer advised that the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Mavin had approved the decision and the minutes.

The Committee –

- (a) considered and took into account the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from the applicant.

The Committee agreed to grant the application for a Private Hire driver's licence subject to the satisfactory completion of the following within 12 months –

- level two VRQ in 'transporting passengers' or equivalent qualification;
- Plymouth Ambassador Course.

Councillor Rennie dissented from this decision and asked for that dissent to be recorded.

(Note: there is a confidential part to this minute).

49. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence**

The Committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) considered the information supplied to the Committee at the adjourned hearing of 29 August 2019;
- (c) heard from the applicant.

The Committee was satisfied that they had received sufficient positive evidence to justify it acting outside of its policy and agreed to grant the application for a Private Hire driver's licence. The Committee granted the application subject to the satisfactory completion of the following within 12 months –

1. Level 2 VRQ in 'transporting passengers' or equivalent qualification;
2. Plymouth Ambassador Course.

(Note: there is a confidential part to this minute)

50. **Review Status of Private Hire Driver Licence**

The Committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from the Licensing Officer that the applicant was not in attendance and that despite attempts to contact him no contact had been made.

The Committee agreed to consider the matter in the applicant's absence, as there had been many attempts to contact him with regard to the concerns prior to his leaving his known address.

The Committee agreed that the applicant's Private Hire driver's licence will be revoked, in accordance with Section 19(1)(b) of the Plymouth City Council 1975 Act.

(Note: there is a confidential part to this minute)

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