

Taxi Licensing Committee

Tuesday 23 June 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor Derrick, in the Chair.

Councillor Tuffin, Vice Chair.

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

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

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 3.10 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.

1. **To Note the Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Derrick as Chair and Councillor Tuffin as Vice Chair for the forthcoming municipal year 2020/21.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes**

The committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2020 as an accurate record.

4. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

5. **Appeal Cases**

Members were advised that since the last meeting, there were no appeal cases to be updated upon.

6. **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 paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

7. **Confidential Minutes**

The committee agreed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2020 as an accurate record.

8. **Review Status of Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

The Committee -

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

The Committee took all of the above into consideration and also considered the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. The Committee had considered the application on its own merits.

Members considered the evidence before them and all available sanctions but have resolved that it is proportionate to find that the taxi driver was no longer a fit and proper person to hold a private hire drivers licence and revoked the licence accordingly.

Note: there is a confidential part to this minute

9. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

Members did not consider this application; this item was deferred to a future Taxi Licensing Committee.

10. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

The Committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Public Health;
- (b) heard from the taxi driver;
- (c) took the report and all that was said by the taxi driver into account.

Members listened to the reasons for supplying an incomplete application and agreed that there were clear and compelling reasons to depart from their policy on this occasion and hear the application. They then proceeded to consider whether the taxi driver was a fit and proper person.

Members elected to grant the application for a private hire drivers licence subject to the following conditions. The taxi driver must:

1. successfully complete the Level 2 VRQ driver qualification in “Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire” or its equivalent, and;
2. also complete the Plymouth Ambassador Course within twelve months of being granted the licence.

Both of these must be completed within twelve months of receipt of the licence. Failure to comply with either of these conditions will result in the non-renewal of the licence and may result in the taxi driver being brought back before this Committee to consider sanctions against the licence.

(Councillors Rennie and Riley were not present after the consideration of the first stage of this application, or for the remainder of the meeting)

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