

Wyre Forest District Council

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

THE CIVIC HALL

CIVIC CENTRE, NEW STREET, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

12th June 2009 (10.30 am)

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), Mrs P V Hayward (Vice-Chairman), G H Eeles, Mrs J Greener, P B Harrison, M B Kelly, Mrs T L Onslow and M Price.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: A J Buckley, H J Martin and D R Sheppard

LIC.2 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor G H Eeles was appointed as a substitute for Councillor H J Martin.

LIC.3 Declaration of Interests

Councillor M B Kelly advised that he had held conversations with Mr Owen, from the Taxi Trade and Mr Bianco the Proprietor of P and P Central Taxis but he came to the meeting with an open mind.

LIC.4 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.5 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's Adopted Age Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage proprietor's licence for hackney carriage number HC077 by Mr Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Principal Licensing officer informed Committee members that each of the vehicles to be inspected would be taken to an area at the back of the Civic Hall

where they could be inspected in a private area of the car park.

Members had received copies of the application to renew the licence, associated correspondence, copy of the vehicle inspection form and a letter of support from Automotive Engineering regarding the vehicles' mechanics.

Members were informed that the Council had set an age limit of 7 years for each hackney carriage vehicle with exceptions granted to specialist vehicles. The Committee was therefore asked to consider and inspect each vehicle in turn to determine whether the licence could be extended or not.

Mr Bianco was present at the meeting and was accompanied by Mr Owen from the taxi trade who spoke on his behalf. Members were informed that Mr Bianco's fleet of taxis was made up of 50/50 wheel chair accessible vehicles and saloon cars.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number BF02 MLZ (Hackney Carriage Licence HCO77).

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and Principal Committee Officer returned to the meeting to deliberate their decision. Mr Bianco, Mr Owen, the Principal Licensing Officer and the Licensing Manager remained outside whilst the Committee reached their decision.

DECISION: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number BF02 MLZ the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC077 vehicle number BF02 MLZ be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010.

LIC.6 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's Adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage proprietor's licence for hackney carriage number HC005 by Mr Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number BF02 MJY (Hackney Carriage Licence HCO05).

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and Principal Committee Officer returned to the meeting to deliberate their decision. Mr Bianco, Mr Owen, the Principal Licensing Officer and the Licensing Manager remained outside whilst the Committee reached their decision.

DECISION: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number BF02 MJY the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC005 vehicle number BF02 MJY be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010.

LIC.7 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's Adopted Age Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage proprietor's licence for hackney carriage number HC065 by Mr Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number BF02 MRV (Hackney Carriage Licence HCO65).

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and Principal Committee Officer returned to the meeting to deliberate their decision. Mr Bianco, Mr Owen, the Principal Licensing Officer and the Licensing Manager remained outside whilst the Committee reached their decision.

DECISION: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number BF02 MRV the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC065 vehicle number BF02 MRV be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010.

LIC.8 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's Adopted Age Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage proprietor's licence for hackney carriage number HC074 by Mr Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number DY51 LCO (Hackney Carriage Licence HCO74).

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and Principal Committee Officer returned to the meeting to deliberate their decision. Mr Bianco, Mr Owen, the Principal Licensing Officer and the Licensing Manager remained outside whilst the Committee reached their decision.

DECISION: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number DV51 LCO the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC074 vehicle number DY51 LCO be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010 subject to the following:

- **The interior does need attention and this would need to be rectified by the time of the next inspection.**

LIC.9 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's Adopted Age Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage proprietor's licence for hackney carriage number HC049 by Mr Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number FM51 JXR (Hackney Carriage Licence HCO49).

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and Principal Committee Officer returned to the meeting to deliberate their decision. Mr Bianco, Mr Owen, the Principal Licensing Officer and the Licensing Manager remained outside whilst the Committee reached their decision.

Whilst considering their decision Members commented that they considered that there should be a more vigilant inspection of the vehicles. Members noted that not all the boxes on the inspection form had been filled in and they wanted consistency. The Principal Licensing Officer agreed to address this point.

DECISION:

1. **Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number FM51 JXR the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC049 vehicle number FM51 JXR be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010 subject to the following:**
 - **The interior carpet needs replacing and**
 - **The front passenger door handle needs attention due to rust and this would need to be rectified by the time of the next inspection.**
2. **The Principal Licensing Officer to address the issue of the Vehicle Licensing Testing Form being filled out in a consistent manner.**

LIC.10 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence Beyond the Council's Adopted Age Policy of Age Criteria (1997)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application for the renewal of a hackney carriage proprietor's licence for hackney carriage number HC045 by Mr Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number OY51 KZR (Hackney Carriage Licence HCO45).

Members of the Committee, the Solicitor and Principal Committee Officer returned to the meeting to deliberate their decision. Mr Bianco, Mr Owen, the Principal Licensing Officer and the Licensing Manager remained outside whilst the Committee reached their decision.

DECISION: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number OY51 KZR the Committee decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC045 vehicle number OY51 KZR be granted for twelve months from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010 subject to the following:

- The inside back panel needs attention and
- The interior needs attention and this would need to be rectified by the time of the next inspection.

LIC.11 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

LIC.12 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

LIC.13 Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm