

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

FRIDAY, 30TH OCTOBER 2009 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), Mrs P V Hayward (Vice-Chairman), A J Buckley, G H Eeles, Mrs J Greener, P B Harrison, M B Kelly, Mrs F M Oborski and M Price.

Observers:

Councillor G C Yarranton.

LIC.55 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs T L Onslow, and D R Sheppard.

LIC.56 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor G H Eeles was appointed as a substitute for Councillor D R Sheppard. Councillor P B Harrison was appointed as a substitute for Councillor Mrs T L Onslow.

LIC.57 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.58 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.59 Application by Mr Roger Arthur Winfield to license a Tuk Tuk Motor Vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to consider an application by Mr Roger Arthur Winfield of The Cock and Magpie Public House, Severnside North, Bewdley, to approve an MMZ Tuk Tuk Auto Rickshaw for licensing as a Private Hire Vehicle.

The Licensing Officer presented the report and advised Members that the application failed to meet the special conditions for Novelty Vehicles to be licensed as Private Hire Vehicles.

Agenda Item No. 4

A long discussion ensued and the following points were raised:

- The safety of the vehicle
- The entrepreneurial spirit of the application
- Whether the vehicle would be used for financial gain
- Whether other local councils licensed similar vehicles

The applicant then addressed the Committee and outlined his reasons for applying for the licence:

- His Passion about the growth and development of Bewdley.
- The difficult times facing the licensing trade in the current economic climate.
- How the use of the Tuk Tuk would free up parking space and could be used by people other than those using his pubs.
- How he would not charge for the use of the vehicle.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that his vehicle had been cleared by VOSA and the DVLA and had passed its MOT.

At this point Members, Officers, the applicant and Members of the public left the Council Chamber to view the vehicle in the Council's Car Park.

Following the viewing of the vehicle, the applicant, members of the public and Officers, except for the Solicitor and Committee Officer left the meeting. The Committee then considered the application. The Solicitor gave legal advice as required and the Committee Officer took the minutes, but neither took any part in the decision-making.

DECISION:

Having carefully considered the application to grant a Private Hire Proprietor's Licence in respect of vehicle registration number M12 TUK The Licensing Committee has decided:

That a Private Hire Proprietor's Licence for vehicle registration number M12 TUK be granted for six months from 1st November 2009 to 30th April 2010 for the reason that, whilst an application for a licence should conform to the Licensing conditions and Council Policies and guidelines, each application will be considered on its own merits.

LIC.60

Taxi Trade Liaison

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that proposed the Taxi Trade Liaison Group should be re-appointed to ensure continued consultation between the Council and the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire trade on issues of mutual interest.

On deliberating the report, an amendment was moved that an additional Member from the Council be appointed in order to allow representation from the larger political parties. The amendment was supported.

DECISION:

- 1. Representation on the Taxi Trade Liaison Group be appointed as follows:**
 - **The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee;**
 - **A Liberal Party Representative – Councillor Mrs F M Oborski;**
 - **An Independent Community and Health Concern Member (to be advised);**
 - **The Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services.**
- 2. The Group should meet three times per year to discuss issues of common interest between the Council and the Hackney Carriage/Private hire trade and report back to the Licensing and Environmental Committee as necessary.**
- 3. Members of the Licensing and Environmental Committee be advised of the dates of the meetings.**

The meeting ended at 11.57 am.