

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

THE CIVIC HALL, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

FRIDAY, 16TH JULY 2010 (10.30AM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), P V Hayward (Vice-Chairman), A J Buckley, H E Dyke, B T Glass, P B Harrison, M B Kelly, F M Oborski, M A Salter and D R Sheppard.

**Observers:**

There were no Members present as observers.

**LIC.8 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Greener and M Price.

**LIC.9 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor F M Oborski was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M Price. Councillor M A Salter was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Greener.

**LIC.10 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**LIC.11 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**LIC.12 Taxi Trade Liaison**

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

Members were advised by the Licensing Officer that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were automatically appointed as Members of the Taxi Trade Liaison Group but another member of the Committee was required to complete the membership. It was noted that the Taxi Trade Liaison Group met 3 times a year. It was also stressed that any member of the Licensing and Environmental Committee could attend Taxi Trade Liaison meetings as an observer. The Licensing Officer informed Members that they would be advised when the meetings would be taking place.

**Decision: Representation on the Liaison Group be re-appointed as per the existing arrangements, consisting of from the Council:**

- **The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee and Councillor Harrison be appointed as the member from the Licensing and Environmental Committee.**
- **The Cabinet member for Housing and Environmental Services**

**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 this Committee as necessary.**

**LIC.13 Renewal of the Statement of Licensing Policy for the District - Licensing Act 2003**

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to approve a consultation period with stakeholders concerning the Statement of Licensing Policy for the District.

Members were advised that the Statement of Licensing Policy was constantly reviewed as the Council was required to offer guidance on how it considered licensing applications. It was noted that this was the third Licensing Statement that the Council had produced and it was required to consult on the document for a period of 12 weeks. It was also a requirement that the Statement of Licensing Policy be presented to Council for adoption by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011. It was further noted that officers had liaised with other District Councils within Worcestershire to ensure that the administration of licensing was completed in a consistent way.

A Member commented that he was concerned whether all the other Council's in the WETT initiative also agreed with this Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria for Hackney Carriage vehicles.

**Decision: Approval be given to a 12 week consultation period with stakeholders.**

**LIC.14 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 HC003 by Mr G Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

The Licensing Officer informed Committee members that a sequence of vehicle applications would be considered and 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 and that each application would be considered on its merits.

Members had received copies of the application to renew the licence, associated

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correspondence, a copy of the vehicle inspection form and a letter of support from Automotive Engineering regarding the vehicle's 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 who represented and spoke on behalf of members of the taxi trade.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number VX52 FNJ (Hackney Carriage Licence HC003).

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

**Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC003 in respect of vehicle registration number VX52 FNJ the Licensing Committee has decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC003 vehicle registration number VX52 FNJ be granted for twelve months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.**

#### **LIC.15**

#### **Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 G Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

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 vehicle's mechanics.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number BF02 MJY (Hackney Carriage Licence HC005).

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

**Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC0035 in respect of vehicle registration number BF02 MJY the Licensing Committee has decided:**

**That a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence for Vehicle number BF02 MJY should not be granted for the following reasons:**

- 1. The vehicle falls outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.**

2. The vehicle is considered not to be of such quality for the Committee to depart from the Age Criteria Policy. In particular, the lack of quality is shown by the following:

- Areas on the car where paint was missing:-
- Paint was scratched off by the roof light
- Paint missing on the off side by the light cluster
- The near side rear door panel cloth trim was peeling
- Broken plastic by the boot catch
- Scratches on the body work that would require re-spraying
- Trim missing on the inside door panels
- Driver's seat torn
- Rear seat on driver's side springs worn
- Small tear in front passenger's seat
- Seat squabs did not match back seats

**LIC.16 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 HC045 by Mr G Bianco of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

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 vehicle's mechanics.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number OY51 KZG (Hackney Carriage Licence HC045).

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

**Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC045 in respect of vehicle registration number OY51 KZG. The Licensing Committee has decided: that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC045 vehicle registration number OY51 KZG be granted for twelve months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.**

**LIC.17 Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 HC049 by Mr Scrocca of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

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 vehicle's mechanics.

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number FM51 JXR (Hackney Carriage Licence HC049).

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

**Decision : Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC049 in respect of vehicle registration number FM51 JXR the Licensing Committee has decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC049 vehicle registration number FM51 JXR be granted for twelve months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 on condition that the following be rectified:**

- **The plastic grille at the front of the car to be replaced**

**and the vehicle brought for inspection to the Council's offices at Duke House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster no later than 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010.**

**LIC.18**

**Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 HC0062 by Mr Scrocca of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

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

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number DY52 NWZ (Hackney Carriage Licence HC062).

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

**Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC062 in respect of vehicle registration number DY52 NWZ the Licensing Committee has decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC062 vehicle registration number DY52 NWZ be granted for twelve months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.**

**LIC.19      Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 HC065 by Mr Scrocca of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

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

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number BF02 MRV (Hackney Carriage Licence HC0065).

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

**Decision : Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC65 in respect of vehicle registration number BF02 MRV the Licensing Committee has decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC65 vehicle registration number BF02 MRV be granted for twelve months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.**

**LIC.20      Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License beyond the Council's adopted Policy of Age Criteria (1997)**

An application by Mr G Scrocca of P & P Central Taxis, Unit G.14 Paddington New Road, Kidderminster DY10 1AL relating to vehicle number DV51 LCO (Hackney Carriage Licence HC 074) was deferred until the next meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Committee when applications to renew a Hackney Carriage Licence would be considered.

**LIC.21      Application to Renew a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's License 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 HC077) by Mr Felice Cappetta of P and P Central Taxis as it fell outside the Age Criteria Policy set by the Council in 1997.

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

Committee Members left the Civic Hall with Officers to inspect vehicle registration number BF02 MLZ (Hackney Carriage Licence HC077).

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

**Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC077 in respect of vehicle registration number BF02 MLZ the Licensing Committee has decided that a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence HC077 vehicle registration number BF02 MLZ be granted for twelve months from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 on condition that the following be rectified:-**

- **The rubber seal on the nearside rear passenger door to be reaffixed**

#### **LIC.21 Exempt Information**

**Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

#### **LIC.22 Exempt Minutes**

**Decision: The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.**

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm.