

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

10TH APRIL 2017 (10.30AM)

Present:

Councillors: J A Hart (Chairman), J Baker (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, R Bishop, J R Desmond, I Hardiman, V Higgs, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, J D Smith, R J Vale and R Wilson.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.22 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

LIC.23 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.24 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.25 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.26 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 paragraphs 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

LIC.27 Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place that asked Members to consider an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing (WRS) led Members through the report

and highlighted the relevant convictions listed on the DBS disclosure form which was circulated to Members at the meeting.

The applicant and his wife addressed the Committee and asked Members to support the application. Following questions from Members, the applicant outlined the circumstances surrounding his previous convictions. He explained the reasons for his actions and the pressure he was under at the time of the offences.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing, applicant and his wife left the meeting at this point, (10.53am), for Members to deliberate their decision. The Solicitor, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer and Assistant Committee Services Officer stayed in the meeting whilst the Committee reached their decision.

The Senior Practitioner – Licensing, applicant and his wife re-entered the meeting at this point, (11.25am). The Solicitor read out the decision of the Committee.

Decision: Having carefully considered the application to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence to the applicant, the Committee has decided that the application to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence to the applicant be refused on the grounds that the applicant did not appear to the Committee, with due consideration of the Council's "Guidelines relating to the Relevance of Convictions", to be "a fit and proper person" to hold such a Licence as:

- 1. the applicant has been convicted of two counts of violence against a person and both offences were carried out within the last 5 years; and**
- 2. the applicant did not provide the Committee with exceptional circumstances to justify the Committee to depart from the Council's "Guidelines relating to the Relevance of Convictions".**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.26am.