

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
held in Committee Room Two, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon
at 10.00 am on Thursday 4 September 2014

PRESENT

Councillors: N A MacRae MBE (Chairman); M Brennan; E H James and G Saul

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 5 August 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S J Good.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers relating to matters to be considered at the meeting.

23. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

There was no public participation.

24. INTRODUCTION OF DRIVER ASSESSMENT FOR HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS AND CANDIDATES

The Sub-Committee received the report of the Shared Head of Public Protection seeking the introduction of a driver assessment for new and existing hackney carriage and private hire drivers as an alternative to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Taxi and Private Hire drivers test.

The Principal Community Safety and Licensing Officer introduced the report and explained that a number of operators had asked for consideration of a local assessment test. It was clarified that the proposed assessment would cover the same areas as the DVSA test but instruction could also be given to rectify any issues.

The Principal Community Safety and Licensing Officer advised that the cost would be less than the DVSA test and they would be available in the evening and at weekends. It was confirmed that drivers could still take the DVSA test if they preferred. Members were advised that the new test would only be recognised in West Oxfordshire whilst the DVSA qualification was transferrable.

Mr MacRae in supporting the new test highlighted that it was positive the council was working in liaison with the trade on this matter. The Principal Community Safety

and Licensing Officer further highlighted that it was positive for local businesses that would provide the assessments.

Mr Saul suggested that the new assessment appeared to be more comprehensive and it was positive that advice and training could also be provided to drivers.

RESOLVED: That, the sub-committee approves the introduction of a driver assessment as an alternative to the DVSA Taxi and Private Hire drivers test.

25. STREET TRADING CONTROLS – CHURCH GREEN, WITNEY

The Sub-Committee was advised that Witney Town Council had withdrawn the application and therefore the report had been withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 10.05am

CHAIRMAN