

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 10.00am on Tuesday 13 March 2018

PRESENT

Councillors: N A MacRae MBE (Chairman); S J Good (Vice-Chairman) and
E H James.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 19 December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

There were no apologies for absence or temporary appointments.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

53. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

No submissions were received from the public in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

54. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Sub-Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager for Environmental and Regulatory Services which sought approval of the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy with effect from 1 April 2018.

Members considered the responses received to the consultation process and **AGREED** that Officers be requested write to those who had submitted observations to thank them for their contributions.

Mr Good noted that some concern had been expressed over the use of roof signs on minibuses as the increased height made such vehicles too tall to pass under some car park barriers. In response, the Licensing Officer advised that similar arrangements had operated satisfactorily in Cotswold District. In response to a question from the Chairman, she advised that Safeguarding Training was required to be undertaken successfully every three years.

The Sub-Committee went on to consider the draft policy in some detail and identified a number of amendments regarding medical certificates, the Hackney Carriage Byelaws, the treatment of what would otherwise be Spent Convictions, driving whilst under the influence of drink and the Intended Use Policy.

Members also discussed the increased incidence of complaints regarding failure to adhere to the Fare Table and **AGREED** that contact details and information regarding the Council's role in addressing complaints be incorporated in the Fare Table and displayed prominently within vehicles as appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the amendments outlined above be incorporated into the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy attached at Appendix C to the report and the revised Policy as appended to the original copy of these minutes be approved for implementation with effect from 1 April 2018.

55. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee being of the opinion that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during the following item of business there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), the public be excluded from the meeting.

56. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE

The Sub-Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager of Environmental and Regulatory Services regarding an application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence and details of the endorsements were outlined.

The driver was then interviewed by the Sub-Committee and presented his case for the grant of a licence, providing details of the circumstances relating to the endorsements on the driving licence.

The Council's Legal Advisor reminded Members that it was the role of the Sub-Committee to consider and determine whether, in view of the information contained within the report and that provided at the meeting, the licence holder remained a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence.

The Sub-Committee then withdrew to determine the application and, having considered the report and the evidence given by the driver, the Sub-Committee:

RESOLVED: That, in view of the evidence submitted by the driver, a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence be granted.

The public was then readmitted to the meeting and, in advising the applicant of the decision, the Chairman cautioned the applicant against accruing any further penalty points and emphasised the importance of complying fully with the terms and conditions attached to a Licence regarding notification of any further driving or other offences.

The meeting closed at 10:35am

CHAIRMAN