

ENVIRONMENT AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21st September, 2010

Councillor R.J. Goodwin (Chairman)

Councillors:	R.G. Kempster (a)	C.P. Barnfather
	W.J. Clarke	R.T. Day
	M.S. Dunkin (a)	P. Feeney
	P.A. Hughes	J.M. Parr (a)
	W.A. Peet	T.J. Pepper
	S.J. Prew-Smith	R.J. Tait
	M.A. Wright	

Officers in attendance: G Palfreyman, H Barrington, S Nickolls, A.Callingham.

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dunkin, Kempster and Parr.

25 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2010

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26 AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION/TESTING MANUAL FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES - USE OF SPACE SAVER TYRES AND EMERGENCY REPAIR SYSTEMS

The Head of Planning and Environment reported that Space Saver tyres were allowed provided they met certain conditions. Vehicle manufacturers had continued to develop new models which included emergency repair systems only, such as canisters containing foam, which enabled punctures to be repaired at the roadside in an emergency situation. The provision of emergency repair systems in hackney carriages/private hire vehicles had been discussed at the last meeting of the Nottinghamshire Licensing Officers Group. The majority of Nottinghamshire Authorities allowed such emergency repair systems in their Vehicle specifications.

RESOLVED:

To approve an amendment to the Borough Council's vehicle specification for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles to enable the use of these new emergency repair systems for consistency with other Nottinghamshire Authorities. The vehicle specification to include the following additional condition:

"If a vehicle is equipped with a space saver spare tyre or other emergency repair system as manufactured, it may only be used to get the vehicle to a location for the tyre to be changed for a full sized tyre – after any vehicle passengers have been transported to a place of safety."

27 REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM DISPLAYING FIXED PLATE - STEPHEN GREGORY T/A STEVE GREGORY EXECUTIVE CHAUFFEUR

The Head of Planning and Environment reported that Mr Gregory had requested that his private hire vehicle be exempt from displaying a vehicle licence plate as he only provided chauffeur services.

RESOLVED:

a) That with respect to Steve Gregory Executive Chauffeur, the requirement to display a vehicle licence plate is waived; and

b) That the Council issue a notice which will be permanently displayed at all times, in a position to be agreed, inside any licensed vehicle used for chauffeuring purposes, owned by Steve Gregory Executive Chauffeur.

28 REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM DISPLAYING FIXED PLATE - ALUN TUCK

The Head of Planning and Environment reported that Mr Tuck had requested that his private hire vehicle be exempt from displaying a vehicle licence plate as he only provided chauffeur services for Knight Executive Travel Ltd.

RESOLVED:

a) That with respect to Mr Alan Tuck, the requirement to display a vehicle licence plate is waived; and

b) That the Council issue a notice which will be permanently displayed at all times, in a position to be agreed, inside any licensed vehicle used for chauffeuring purposes, owned by Mr Tuck.

29 HEALTH & SAFETY DOCUMENT 2010 - NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY SECTION 18 STANDARD GUIDANCE

Members were informed of the production of a new in-house Health & Safety Document and recent developmental work carried out to meet the requirements of new national Standards for Health & Safety enforcement.

RESOLVED:

To note the information.

30 NOTICES SERVED - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SECTION

RESOLVED:

To note the information.

31 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.

RESOLVED:

That a working group, comprising Councillors Goodwin, Barnfather, Peet and Wright, meet to consider amendments to the Policy and Guidelines for applications for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licences and Private Hire Operators licences.

32 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the members being satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the ensuing reports on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

33 RENEWAL OF JOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - WK

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning & Environment regarding an application for a renewal of a joint Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence from WK.

WK attended the meeting and addressed the Committee.

In making its decision, the Committee has applied the Council's approved Policy and Guidelines. On the basis of what it has heard, the Committee is not satisfied on balance that exceptional circumstances exist which would warrant departure from this policy.

RESOLVED:

To refuse to approve the application from WK for a Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence on the basis that he is not considered to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence because of his previous convictions.

WK was advised of his right of appeal against the decision of the Committee.

34 INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT BY TAXI LICENSING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - JULY/AUGUST 2010

RESOLVED:

To note the information.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm.