

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

**Present:**

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)  
Councillor B Challenor (Vice -Chair)  
Councillors A Ahmed, M Cook, J Cowell, K Denning, D Harley, A Taylor and J Thorne.

**Officers:**

N Slym (Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement),  
S Wright (Solicitor) and K Taylor (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

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15 **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor L Hamblett.

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16 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor K Denning had been appointed to serve as substitute Member for Councillor L Hamblett for this meeting of the Committee only.

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17 **Declarations of interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of any matters considered at the meeting.

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18 **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

There were no questions to the Chair pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.8.

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19 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual(s) as defined under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

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20 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AAR**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr AAR.

Mr AAR was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr AAR confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case. It was noted that Mr AAR had appeared previously before the Taxis Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 for the grant of a private hire driver's licence which was refused due to Mr AAR's convictions.

Mr AAR explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) report and disclosed by Mr AAR on his application submitted.

Mr AAR further confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

**Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Standards, the Committee were satisfied that Mr AAR was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided and the significant time that had lapsed since Mr AAR's convictions, therefore, subject to Mr AAR undertaking a drugs test, at his own expense, and providing a negative result, a private hire driver's licence be granted.

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21 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr KK**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr KK.

Mr KK was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr KK confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case. It was noted that Mr KK had appeared previously before the Taxis Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 for the grant of a private hire driver's licence which was refused.

Mr KK explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the DBS report and disclosed by Mr KK on his application submitted. It was noted that Mr KK's current Driver and Vehicle Licence Agency (DVLA) licence was endorsed with 10 penalty points.

Mr KK further confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

**Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Standards, whilst the Committee acknowledged that time had lapsed for a number of Mr KK's convictions they were numerous also, Mr KK's DVLA licence had been recently endorsed with 10 penalty points for failure to provide a specimen for analysis in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive. In light of this, the Committee did not consider Mr KK to be a fit and proper person, therefore the application for grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr KK be refused.

Mr KK was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Magistrates Court.

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22 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MN**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MN.

Mr MN was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MN advised the Committee that he no longer wished to proceed with his application and requested that the matter be withdrawn.

Following a request made by Mr MN regarding a refund, the Assistant Team Manager – Licensing and Waste Enforcement advised the Committee that the administration for the application process had been completed and that Mr MN had undertaken the necessary assessments, and would discuss the matter further with Mr MN following the meeting.

Following further discussion, it was

**Resolved**

That the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MN be withdrawn.

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23 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MR**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's licence to Mr MR.

Mr MR was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MR confirmed that a fair summary of the case had been presented and explained the circumstances surrounding the conviction, which was outlined on the DBS report and disclosed by Mr MR on his application submitted.

Mr MR confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

### **Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee's Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, the Committee were satisfied that Mr MR was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided and the significant time that had lapsed since Mr MR's conviction, therefore, the private hire driver's licence to Mr MR be granted.

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### **24 Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MH**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MH.

Mr MH was in attendance at the meeting.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MH explained the circumstances surrounding the conviction which was outlined on the DBS report and disclosed by Mr MH on his application submitted.

Mr MH confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to allow the Committee the opportunity to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

## **Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Standards, the Committee were satisfied that Mr MH was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided and the significant time that had lapsed since Mr MH's conviction, therefore, the private hire driver's licence to Mr MH be granted.

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### **25 Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr ZW**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr ZW.

Mr ZW was in attendance at the meeting.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr ZW confirmed that a fair summary of the case had been presented. It was noted that Mr ZW had declared one offence on his application form and not the associated convictions which were imposed at court on the same date.

Mr ZW explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the DBS report and DVLA licence mandate.

Mr ZW confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the committee's attention, following which the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation to the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to allow the Committee opportunity to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

## **Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Standards, the Committee determined that in view of the previous convictions and the explanation provided and Mr ZW's failure to declare all of the offences on his application form, they did not consider Mr ZW to be a fit and proper person, therefore the application to grant a private hire driver's licence to Mr ZW, be refused.

Mr ZW was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Magistrate's Court.

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The meeting ended at 8.01pm.

CHAIR