

**Minutes of the meeting of the Taxis Committee
Monday 3rd July, 2023 at 6.00 pm
At Saltwells Education Development Centre,
Bowling Green Road, Netherton, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor B Challenor (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, K Denning, S Keasey, J Martin, C Sullivan and A Taylor.

Officers:

N Slym (Assistant Team Manager), S Smith (Team Manager) (Licensing and Waste Enforcement), M Jackson (Barrister, No.8 Chambers) and G Gray (Democratic Services Officer)

13 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors D Harley, W Little and W Sullivan.

14 **Appointment of Substitute Members**

It was reported that Councillors C Sullivan and S Keasey had been appointed to serve as substitute Members for Councillors D Harley and W Little, respectively, for this meeting of the Committee only.

15 **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.

16 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June, 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed.

17 **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

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

18 **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.

19 **Application for Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr AK**

A report of the Interim Service Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence to Mr AK

Mr AK was in attendance at the meeting together with his relative, Mrs KB. Mr AK explained the circumstances surrounding his previous convictions as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report submitted and responded to questions raised by Members.

Further to a question raised by a Member, Mr AK advised that he had been employed temporarily as a Security Guard at an establishment which was owned by Councillor S Keasey.

Mr AK confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

The Committee's Barrister provided a legal summary in relation to the case, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

At this juncture Councillor Keasey also withdrew from the meeting.

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 given the explanation provided, they were satisfied that Mr AK was a fit and proper person, therefore, the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence to Mr AK be granted.

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

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

Mr MA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr AA.

Mr AA made detailed representations on behalf of Mr MA in support of his application and responded to questions raised by Members in relation to the endorsements on Mr MA's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) mandate, as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr AA provided additional information at the meeting in support of the mitigating circumstances surrounding Mr MA's endorsements.

At this juncture, the Committee adjourned to allow Members to discuss and view the additional information that had been supplied by Mr AA.

The Committee reconvened after a short discussion and taking into consideration concerns raised by Members at the meeting regarding the additional information it was:-

Resolved

That the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MA be deferred to a future meeting, subject to Officers verifying the additional documentation submitted at the meeting.

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

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

Mr MH was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances surrounding the results of his knowledge tests as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report submitted and responded to questions asked by the Committee.

Mr MH confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

All parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

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 Mr MH was not a fit and proper person considering the number of attempts taken for the knowledge test and that not enough progress had been made, therefore, Mr MH would not be allowed to attempt a further test.

22 **Change in Order of Business**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 1(c), it was:-

Resolved

That the order of business be varied and the agenda items be considered in the order set out in the minutes below.

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

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

Mr TM was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances in relation to his previous convictions as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report submitted and responded to questions raised by Members.

Mr TM confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

The Committee's Barrister provided a legal summary in relation to the case, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

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 given the explanation provided, they were satisfied that Mr TM was a fit and proper person, therefore, the Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr TM be granted.

24 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr SH**

A report of the Interim Service Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire driver's licence to Mr SH.

Mr SH was not in attendance at the meeting. The Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) informed the Committee that following a telephone conversation with Mr SH, he had advised that he had not been informed of the meeting and was out of the Country and therefore unable to attend the hearing. However, the Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) advised the Committee that Mr SH had been provided with sufficient notice and adequate time to attend the meeting.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved

That this item of business be deferred to a future meeting.

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

A report of the Interim Service Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire driver's licence to Mr GPJ.

Mr GPJ was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances surrounding the previous convictions as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

Mr GPJ confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

The Committee's Barrister provided a legal summary in relation to the case, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

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 given the explanation provided, they were satisfied that Mr GPJ was a fit and proper person, therefore, the Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr GPJ be granted.

The meeting ended at 7.46pm

CHAIR