

**Minutes of the meeting of the Taxis Committee
Thursday 1st June, 2023 at 6.00 pm
At Saltwells Education Development Centre,
Bowling Green Road, Netherton, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)

Councillors M Aston, K Denning, D Harley, W Little, J Martin (from Minute No. 10), C Sullivan, W Sullivan and A Taylor.

Officers:

N Slym (Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement)), T Holder (Solicitor) and K Taylor (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1 Chair's Announcement

The Chair referred to the recent death of Councillor R Body, and the meeting observed a period of silence as a token of respect to his memory.

2 Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor B Challenor.

3 Appointment of Substitute Members

It was reported that Councillor C Sullivan had been appointed to serve as substitute Member for Councillor B Challenor for this meeting of the Committee only.

4 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.

5 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April, 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed.

6 **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

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

7 **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.

8 **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MKS**

A report of the Interim Director of Environment was submitted to consider the review of the private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr MKS.

Mr MKS was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr AS.

Mr AS made detailed representations on behalf of his client and responded to questions raised by Members in relation to the information contained within the report submitted.

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

The Committee's Solicitor 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 AS was a fit and proper person to hold a licence and a warning be issued regarding his future conduct.

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

It was noted that the application had been withdrawn.

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

At the request of Mr SH and with agreement of the Committee, this item of business was deferred to a future meeting.

11 Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr SH

A report of the Interim Director of Environment was submitted to consider the review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr SH.

Mr SH was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr AS.

Mr AS made detailed representations on behalf of his client and explained the circumstances surrounding the endorsements on his Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) mandate, as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report submitted. Both Mr AS and Mr SH responded to questions asked by the Committee.

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

The Committee's Solicitor 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 SH was a fit and proper person to hold a licence and a warning be issued regarding his future conduct.

12 **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr ZM**

A report of the Interim Director of Environment was submitted to consider the review of the Private Hire driver's licence issued to Mr ZM.

Mr ZM was not in attendance at the meeting. Following a brief adjournment, the Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) informed the Committee that following a telephone conversation with Mr ZM's father, he had reported that Mr ZM had forgotten that the hearing was taking place.

As Mr ZM had been provided with sufficient notice and adequate time to attend the meeting, the Committee determined that the review should continue in Mr ZM's absence.

The Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) presented the report in detail, in particular referring to Mr ZM's breach of conditions 1(a) and 8 of his private hire vehicle licence.

The Solicitor 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, evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee's Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, the Committee were of the view that in accordance with Section 61(1)(b) and Section 61(2A) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Act 1976, the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr ZM be suspended for a period of three months, in view of his breach of conditions 1(a) and 8 of his private hire vehicle licence.

Mr ZM would be advised of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

CHAIR