

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Monday 6th June 2022 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor B Challenor (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, P Drake, D Harley, P Lee, A Lees, J Martin, and D Stanley

Officers:

S Smith (Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement)), N Slym (Assistant Team Manager), T Holder (Solicitor) and L Jury (Democratic Services Officer)

1 Apology for absence

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor R Body.

2 Appointment of Substitute Member

It was reported that Councillor P Drake had been appointed as substitute Member for Councillor R Body for this meeting of the Committee only.

3 Declarations of interest

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

4 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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.

6 **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MAA**

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

Mr MAA was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances surrounding the offences. It was noted that some of the incidents had occurred whilst Mr MAA was undertaking his duties as a private hire driver, and he explained his confusion with regards to the changes to the speed limits on the road in question within a relatively short distance. He confirmed that he believed that he had been driving within the speed limits permitted and that the offences had been genuine mistakes and that he would do his utmost to see that this did not happen again.

Mr MAA responded to questions asked by the Committee and 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 Guidance, in pursuance of Part II Section 61(1) and (2A) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence issued to Mr MAA, be suspended for a period of one month, due to the frequency of the offences outlined.

Mr MAA was informed of his right to appeal the decision.

7 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr JK**

A report of the Interim Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr JK.

Mr JK was in attendance at the meeting together with his wife and gave a detailed explanation of the circumstances surrounding the offences which had been linked to a family dispute for which he was very embarrassed and remorseful. Mr JK confirmed that should the Committee approve the grant of a licence, a Taxi company had expressed that they would employ him, and his future behaviour would be monitored.

The Committee were informed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to their 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 Guidance, in pursuance with Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee determined that, although the offences committed were of a serious nature, Mr JK was deemed as a fit and proper person and a private hire driver's licence be granted particularly as his future behaviour and conduct would be closely monitored.

8 Application for the Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr DJK

A report of the Interim Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr DJK

Mr DJK was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions raised by the Committee in relation to convictions that had been highlighted in his Disclosure Barring Service check (DBS). Mr DJK referred to the personal circumstances that had led to the incidents and confirmed that the incidents had all been undertaken when he had been a juvenile some 32 years ago, and he confirmed that he had now turned his life around. It was noted that Mr DJK had been in secure employment for several years and now wished to change his employment to be able to spend more quality time with his family.

The Committee were informed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to their 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 Guidance, in pursuance with Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee determined that, Mr DJK was a fit and proper person and a private hire driver's licence be granted.

9 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr ACA**

A report of the Interim Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr ACA.

Mr ACA was in attendance at the meeting and gave a detailed explanation of the circumstances surrounding the offence as set out in the report and confirmed that he had not been undertaking his duties as a private hire driver when the incident had occurred. It was noted that prior to the offence, Mr ACA confirmed that he had no previous convictions and admitted that the incident had been a mistake which he deeply regretted and assured Members that this would not happen again. Mr ACA confirmed the name of the Taxi company he would be employed with should the Committee grant him a licence.

Mr ACA responded to further questions raised by the Committee and 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 Guidance, in pursuance of Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence in respect of Mr ACA, be refused, as the Committee was not satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to be granted a private hire driver's licence, due to the seriousness of the offence committed, as outlined in the report.

Mr ACA was informed of his right to appeal the decision.

10 **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr IM**

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

Mr IM was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances surrounding the breach in his licencing condition and assured Members that all issues that had been raised at the interview he had attended with Licensing Officers had been rectified.

Mr IM responded to questions asked by the Committee and confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

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 Guidance, in pursuance of Part II Section 61(1) and (2A) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr IM, be suspended for a period of one month, due to the offences outlined and following the suspension period, Mr IM's future conduct be monitored.

Mr IM was informed of his right to appeal the decision.

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

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

Mr MM was in attendance at the meeting together with his wife and requested that his application to review his private hire driver's licence be deferred to a future meeting to enable him to arrange legal representation.

Resolved

That, consideration of the application for the review of a private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MM, be deferred to the next meeting to allow Mr MM to arrange legal representation.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm.

CHAIR