

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Thursday 9th December, 2021 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)
Councillors R Body, B Challenor, P Drake, D Harley, E Lawrence and A Millward

Officers:

S Smith – Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) (Directorate of Public Realm),
S Wright – Solicitor and H Mills - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and
Legal).

39. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M
Aston and I Bevan.

40. **Appointment of Substitute**

It was reported that Councillor A Millward had been appointed as a substitute for
Councillor I Bevan, for this meeting of the Committee only.

41. **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.

42. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

43. **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.

44. **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr FS**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr FS.

Mr FS was in attendance at the meeting.

The Committee noted that paperwork submitted was incomplete, in that the transcript from the interview attended by Mr FS, together with statements and supporting evidence from West Midlands Police had been omitted. Therefore, following advice from the Solicitor, and to ensure the Committee had all the relevant information available to them to conduct a fair hearing, the Committee determined that the application be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That, consideration of the application for the review of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr FS, be deferred to a future meeting to allow all relevant information to be submitted and considered.

45. **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr NGSA**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr NGSA.

Mr NGSA was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances surrounding the incident reported whilst undertaking his duties as a private hire driver, as set out in the report and as observed in the video footage presented at the meeting.

Mr NGSA 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.



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 review.

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) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee determined that Mr NGSA was a fit and proper person to continue to be a private hire driver, however it was further determined that he receive a written warning as to his future conduct whilst undertaking his duties as a private hire driver.

46. Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr KA

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr KA.

Mr KA was in attendance at the meeting.

Mr KA outlined the circumstances surrounding the offence, which had been reported to the Licensing Office within the necessary timeframe in accordance with Condition 2 of the hackney carriage driver's licence and Condition 12 of the private hire driver's licence, as outlined in the report. Mr KA 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.

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 review.

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)(b) and (2A) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence issued to Mr KA, be suspended for a period of one month, due to the offence amounting to reasonable cause to show that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence, taking into account the remorse shown for his misconduct and in view of his good driving record over a twenty year period.

Mr KA was informed of his right to appeal the Committee's decision.



47. **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr NI**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence on behalf of Mr NI.

Mr NI was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence endorsed on his Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) mandate, as set out in the report submitted.

Mr NI confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which, a legal summary was provided by the Solicitor.

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 NI was a fit and proper person and a private hire driver's licence be granted.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR

