

Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Thursday 10th August, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, A Aston, R Body, J Cowell, A Goddard, E Lawrence and C Perks

Officers:-

S Smith – Licensing Manager, P Holder and A Babbs – Licensing Enforcement Officers (Place Directorate); N Bangar – Solicitor and K Buckle – Democratic Services Officer (both Chief Executive's Directorate)

23 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors M Aston and P Bradley.

24 **Appointment of Substitute Members**

It was noted that Councillor A Ahmed and Councillor A Goddard had been appointed as substitute members respectively for Councillor M Aston and P Bradley for this meeting of the Committee only.

25 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the Committee held on 13th July, 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed.

26 **Exclusion of the Public**

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 any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

27 **Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr AS**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted on an application to review the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences issued to Mr AS.

Mr AS was in attendance at the meeting together with his representative.

Members viewed a DVD of the incidents which had been provided by a witness.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer also provided Members with further details of the dangerous junctions where both incidents had taken place.

The witness responded to Members questions and in doing so referred to the erratic driving of Mr AS which she had witnessed on a previous occasion and felt compelled to video the present incident, as this was the second time she had witnessed Mr AS driving in a dangerous manner.

Mr AS and his representative made representations and in doing so advised that Mr AS would not normally cover the route to the school and was unfamiliar with the road layout and denied overtaking on a junction. Mr AS apologised for his driving and behaviour and confirmed that there were no other 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 and reported at the meeting, the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences issued to Mr AS be revoked, on the grounds that he was not considered a fit and proper person in view of the evidence presented on dangerous driving.

Mr AS was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

28 **Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AR**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted on an application to review the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr AR.

Mr AR, together with his representative Mr Saleem was in attendance at the meeting.

Two witnesses responded to Members questions advising that the statement submitted to Members was a fair representation of their evidence, advising of the several attempts they had been forced to make in order to obtain details of the driver in order to report the incidents now referred to.

Mr Saleem made representations on behalf of Mr AR and in doing so advised of the exemplary driving record of Mr AR with him holding a licence for 47 years and being a taxi driver for 28 years advising that the taxi contained a hands free device and there would be no need for Mr AR to operate his phone whilst driving, with Mr AR denying

the incidents he was now accused of.

Mr Saleem also advised that Mr AR asked the permission of his passengers when he needed to answer the phone and was fully aware of the law in relation to the use of mobile phones when driving and denied putting a child at risk of danger and confirmed that there were no other matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

Resolved

That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr AR be suspended for a period of two months in light of Mr AR's conduct as outlined in the report submitted.

Mr AR was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

29 **Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr AUH**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted on an application for the review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences issued to Mr AUH, in view of the licence endorsement with three penalty points for the use of a handheld mobile phone/device whilst driving a motor vehicle on a road, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr AUH was not in attendance at the meeting and notification for the reason for his non-attendance had not been received.

Resolved

That, consideration of the review of the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences to Mr AUH be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

CHAIR