

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24th February, 2015

Present:- Councillor Kyle Robinson – in the Chair

Councillors Bailey, Braithwaite, Eastwood, Hailstones, Hailstones, Matthews, Naylor, Miss Olszewski, Proctor, Walklate, Williams and Williams

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

3. **DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Resolved: That the public be excluded.

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

Resolved: That the licence be granted for 12 months following which a review would be undertaken prior to extending the licence for the full three year period. The Committee received a report in relation to an application for a Hackney Carriage Driver's licence. A requirement of the application process was to produce both parts of the DVLA driving licence, copies of which were attached to the report. The driving licence showed that, on 26th September 2014, Mr Ahmed was convicted of driving with no insurance for which he was fined £300.00 and 6 penalty points were added to his DVLA driver's licence.

The Committee listed to the case put forward by the applicant and considered the Council's Guidelines in relation to convictions and resolved:

5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

Resolved: That the Committee allow the vehicle to be tested but that a warning letter be written to Mr Ahmed regarding the situation and that he also be reminded in that letter that his vehicle would be reaching the 8 year limit before its next depot test. A report was submitted to inform the Committee of an application by Mr Aklas Ahmed for the renewal of his private hire vehicle licence.

Mr Ahmed was licenced as a private hire driver with the Council. On 1st December 2014 a letter was sent to Mr Ahmed informing him that his private hire vehicle licence was due to expire on February 22nd 2015 and a depot test had been arranged for the 11th February 2015 at the Council testing centre. Mr Ahmed did not attend that test nor did he inform the Council of any reason why he did not.

Mr Ahmed contacted the licensing officer to say that he had forgotten about the vehicle test and that he needed an alternative before Sunday 22nd February 2015 when his vehicle licence expired.

Following consultation with the depot staff, Mr Ahmed was informed that the depot diary was full and an alternative date was not available to offer him.

Mr Ahmed was advised to write to the Democratic Services Manager explaining why he did not attend the test arranged for the 11th February 2015 and why he left it so late before he contacted the licensing staff to ask for help. A copy of the letter was attached to the report.

The Committee considered the representation put forward by Mr Ahmed

6. **TAXI POLICY FOLLOWING CONSULTATION**

A report was submitted to request that the Committee consider the responses received in relation to the Draft Taxi Licensing Policy for Newcastle under Lyme and that a final agreed Taxi Licensing Policy be brought into practice from 1st March 2015.

Members considered an additional representation from the representative of the Hackney concerning the consultation process. The representative of the Trade stated that he

The chair recommended that the item be deferred to allow officers time to consider the concerns put forward by the trade.

The proposal was seconded and all members were in agreement with this course of action.

Resolved: That the item be deferred to a future meeting.

7. **ALLOTMENT PROVISION IN THE PARISH OF SILVERDALE**

A report was submitted to inform the Public Protection Committee of the decisions of Cabinet in respect of the Acre Allotments (former Silverdale Trust Land) in the Parish of Silverdale.

Members considered that this was a positive report.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Public Protection Committee note and endorse the decisions of Cabinet in respect of The Acre Allotments in the Parish of Silverdale.
- (b) That the Public Protection Committee endorse the lease of part of The Acre and the termination of the allotment tenancy agreements as resolved by Cabinet.

8. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR KYLE ROBINSON
Chair

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