

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing to consider the Fitness and Propriety of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licenced Driver held on Friday 2 June 2017 at 10.30am in the John Meikle Room at The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE.

Present: Councillor Mrs Hill (Chairman)
Councillors Hunt and Gage

Officers: Fern Avis (Licensing Officer), John Rendell (Licensing Manager), Lesley Dolan (SHAPE Legal Services) and Clare Rendell (Democratic Service Officer).

Applicant: Taxi Driver A

Other: Employer of Taxi Driver A

(The meeting commenced at 10.30am)

The Chairman introduced herself and her fellow Sub-Committee Members and officers then explained their roles. As well as acknowledging the documents she explained the procedure to be followed during this meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The Licensing Officer introduced her previously circulated report. Members were requested to consider the **Fitness and Propriety** of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licensed Driver, **Taxi Driver A**.

In 2013, 2014 and 2017, Taxi Driver A had been found guilty of four speeding offences and had received two fines and his DVLA driving licence was endorsed with a total of fourteen penalty points. Due to this offence, the Licensing Manager had issued Taxi Driver A with a verbal warning and then subsequently had invited him to attend an interview. The outcome of the interview was that a hearing was required to determine whether or not Taxi Driver A should keep his licence.

Further details of events were given during the Licensing Officer's report.

Taxi Driver A presented his case to the Sub-Committee.

During the proceedings various questions were asked of Driver A by Members of the Sub-Committee, the Council's Legal Representative and the Licensing Officer. Driver A was also given the opportunity to ask questions.

Closing Statements

The Licensing Officer made a brief closing statement to the Members of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee Members retired at 11.00am.

The Sub-Committee Members returned at 11.45am.

The Sub-Committee Decision

The Legal Representative of the Sub-Committee read out the following decision:-

“This was the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee held at The Deane House on 2 June 2017.

To consider the fitness and propriety of Taxi Driver A, a licensed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver with this Authority.

The Sub-Committee had reached its decision after representations from the Licensing Department and Taxi Driver A were heard.

The Sub-Committee had taken all matters into consideration, including Taxi Driver A's home life and considered him to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licence.

The decision was therefore for Taxi Driver A to continue to be a licensed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver. The following conditions were added to the decision:-

- For the next five years, Taxi Driver A would be required to reapply for his licence on an annual basis.
- Within the next month Taxi Driver A must have signed up for a speed awareness course and provide the Licensing Department with evidence of attendance.
- Taxi Driver A was advised that if he received any further points on his driving licence within the next three years, he would have his Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licence revoked.

That was the decision of this Licensing Sub-Committee.”

There was a right of appeal against this decision. Any appeal must be lodged with the Magistrates' Court within 21 days following notification of the decision.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

(The meeting closed at 11.55am)