

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held at the **Virtual Meeting using Zoom meeting software on Tuesday 8 December 2020.**

(10.00 - 10.15 am)

**Present:**

**Members:** Councillor David Recardo (Chairman)

Tony Lock	Kevin Messenger
Crispin Raikes	Paul Rowsell
Wes Read	Jeny Snell
Linda Vijeh	Andy Soughton
Jason Baker	William Wallace
Karl Gill	

**Officers**

Jo Morris	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Becky Sanders	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Vicki Dawson	Lead Specialist (Environmental Health)
Rachel Lloyd	Specialist - Licensing

**Note:** All decisions were approved without dissent unless shown otherwise.

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**54. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Previous Meetings (Agenda Item 1)**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 18th August 2020 were approved as a correct and would be signed by the Chairman.

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**55. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dave Bulmer and Martin Wale.

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**56. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

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**57. Public Participation at Committees (Agenda Item 4)**

Members noted that the applicant for Item 7 – Permission to apply for a non-wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence would address the Committee at the time the item was discussed.

There were no other members of the public present at the meeting.

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**58. Update on the Taxi Licensing Policy (Agenda Item 5)**

The Specialist – Licensing presented the report. She asked members to agree that all future requests for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles that are less than 5 years old could be approved by officers without the need to refer to committee, unless the percentage of hackney carriage vehicles that are wheelchair accessible falls to 30%. She explained that if and when the percentage reduced to 30% any requests would be referred to the Licensing Committee for a decision.

There being no discussion or questions raised, members were content to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

**RESOLVED:** That the Licensing Committee agree that officers can process and grant applications for non-WAVs without the need for referral to committee unless the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles falls back to 30%.

*(Voting: unanimous in favour)*

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**59. Exclusion of Press and Public (Agenda Item 6)**

**RESOLVED:** That Agenda Item 7 be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraph 1: “Information relating to any individual for, or recipient or form recipient of any service provided by the authority.” It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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**60. Permission to apply for a non-wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (Confidential) (Agenda Item 7)**

This item was considered in closed session.

The Committee was addressed by the applicant who explained the reasons for his request.

Members unanimously approved the request to allow the taxi driver to submit an application for a vehicle (to replace his existing licensed vehicle) which is less than 5 years old and not wheelchair accessible.

**RESOLVED:** That the request to allow the taxi driver to submit an application for a vehicle (to replace his existing licensed vehicle) which is less than 5 years old and not wheelchair accessible be approved.

*(Voting: unanimous in favour)*

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**61. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 8)**

This item was taken prior to Agenda Item 6.

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Licensing Committee would be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10.00am.

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Chairman

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Date