

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Tuesday, 3rd December 2013 at 5:00pm.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) T. A. Bates	I. Pearce	L. Walker
S. A. Bradwick	B. Morgan	E. Webster
(Mrs) S. Jones	J. Rosser	
R. B. McDonald	G. Smith	

Officers in Attendance:

Mr P J Mee - Service Director, Public Health & Protection
Mrs M Williams – Licensing Manager
Mr P. Nicholls – Principal Solicitor
Mr L Morgan – Assistant Licensing Manager

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors C. Leyshon, S. Powderhill, T. Williams and K. Montague

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests in matters pertaining to the agenda.

51. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998 AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT

RESOLVED – to note that when Members determine the licensing and registration matters before them, they have a duty not to act in a manner that is incompatible with the convention on Human Rights and the Crime and Disorder Act.

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 22nd October 2013.

53. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection announced the addition of two new members of the Licensing team, Mr Alan Morgan and Mr Malcolm O'Sullivan and Members of the Licensing Committee welcomed them.

54. LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISION OF DELEGATED POWERS

In his report, the Service Director, Public Health and Protection presented Members with details of licences and registrations issued during the period the 7th October 2013 to 17th November 2013. Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note the content.

55. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 12 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information relating to a particular individual. Transparency in the conduct of Local Authority business is desirable; however personal data relating to the conduct and capabilities of individuals will be discussed and considered. Consequently, it is considered the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information.

56. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 – APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER LICENCES

In his report, the Service Director, Public Health and Protection set out details of the following applications in respect of the renewal of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Licenses which required consideration by Members.

1. In accordance with adopted procedures, the committee received Mr SL of Treorchy whose application for the renewal of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence was brought before Members. The applicant confirmed that the details of the offences recorded against him were correct and he explained the circumstances surrounding his convictions. During the proceedings a South Wales Police Officer was called upon to clarify the details of the applicant's most recent offences.

Following consideration of the evidence before them Members **RESOLVED** to grant the application subject to the usual standard terms and conditions with a requirement to obtain the BTEC Level 2 Certificate Transporting Passengers for Hire & Reward within a period of 2 months.

2. Members were informed that Mr AH of Aberdare, Renewal of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence, was not in attendance for the second occasion, in accordance with Minute No. 46 (4) (Licensing Committee 22nd October 2013) and it was **RESOLVED** to determine the application in his absence.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to refuse the application of Mr AH of Aberdare as Members were of the opinion that he was not a fit and proper person to hold such a Licence, in view of the serious nature of the offences committed.

3. Members were informed that Mr SWY of Taffs Well was not in attendance to present his application and it was **RESOLVED** to defer determination of the application to the next appropriate meeting of the Licensing Committee, to afford the applicant the opportunity to present himself to Members. However, failure to attend on the second occasion will result in the application being determined in his absence.

In response to a query from a Member of the Licensing Committee the Service Director Public Health & Protection confirmed that the Licensing Department would issue a reminder to all Licensees of their obligations to notify the Licensing Authority of any convictions incurred during the currency of a licence.

57. ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

The Service Director Public Health and Protection provided Members with a summary of recent enforcement activity in respect of Taxi and Miscellaneous Licences for the period 7th October 2013 to the 17th November 2013.

Updates were provided in relation to both complaint led enforcement activity and proactive vehicle and driver checks. Particular reference was made to the checks of several vehicles undertaking School to Home Transport contracts.

An update was provided in respect of the continued racial tensions at Pontypridd Taxi Rank which has resulted in late night visits to the area by Officers following complaints by members of the public. Members of the Licensing Committee were informed of the continued work by several agencies in order to overcome the inappropriate behaviour and the intention to conduct further enforcement work throughout December 2013.

An example of the poster campaign entitled 'Cowboy Cab' formed part of the report to inform Members of the initiative set up to alert the public of the potential dangers in using unlicensed vehicles during the festive period.

Members of the Committee noted one appeal for the period with details attached and following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note the content which had been provided for information only.

Following a query a discussion centred on the temporary public convenience set up near the Pontypridd Taxi Rank every weekend

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next appropriate meeting of the Licensing Committee

throughout the festive period. The Service Director Public Health & Protection also acknowledged issues at the Aberdare Taxi Rank which would require attention.

58. SUMMARY OF LICENCES ISSUED UNDER PROVISION OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY

In his report the Service Director, Public Health and Protection provided a summary of Licences and/or Registrations issued under provisions of Delegated Authority for the period 7th October 2013 to the 17th November 2013 and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

A S Fox
Chairman

The meeting closed at 5.45pm