

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, 10 March 2015 at 5:00pm.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

S. A. Bradwick	J. Rosser
(Mrs) S. J. Jones	G. Smith
(Mrs) C. Leyshon	L. G. Walker
C. Middle	E. Webster
I. Pearce	T. Williams
B. Morgan	

Officers in Attendance:

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

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) T. A. Bates and S. Powderhill

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

62. 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.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 20th January 2015.

REPORTS OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION

64. 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 6th January 2015 to the 27th February 2015. Members were informed that above average number of animal licences within the report is acceptable as the applications are received and processed on an annual basis. Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note the content.

65. 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

66. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 – APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER LICENSES

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

1. In accordance with adopted procedures the Committee received Mr DTM of Aberdare whose application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence was brought before Members of the Committee for determination. The applicant confirmed that both the personal details and details of the offences recorded against him were correct and he proceeded to outline the circumstances surrounding his convictions.

Following consideration of the report members of the Committee **RESOLVED** to grant the application for a Hackney Carriage /Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence subject to the usual standard terms and conditions and subject to receipt of an acceptable medical assessment.

2. In accordance with adopted procedures the Committee received Mr ORD of Porth whose application for the grant of a Joint Hackney

Carriage /Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence and Private Hire Vehicle Operators Licence required consideration. The applicant confirmed the details of the offences recorded against him were correct and he explained the circumstances surrounding his convictions.

Following consideration of the information before them Members of the Committee **RESOLVED** to grant the application subject to the usual standard terms and conditions.

67. ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection presented his report outlining recent enforcement activity in respect of Taxi & Miscellaneous Licences for the period 6th January 2015 to the 27th February 2015.

Members of the committee were provided with information in respect of complaint led enforcement issues for the period which related to the taxi trade, the scrap metal trade and animal boarding and pet shop trade. It was reported that throughout January and February members of the Licensing team carried out inspections of all 17 pet shops across the County Borough as well as horse riding establishments, boarding establishments and home boarding establishments, many accompanied by a Veterinary Surgeon in keeping with a revised inspection procedure.

Further information was relayed to committee in respect of licensed vehicle checks at Talbot Green & Aberdare taxi ranks and Members informed of the outcome of a partner agency referral which had resulted in concerns being raised regarding potential domestic abuse and the wellbeing of a female driver. It was acknowledged that a routine exercise had highlighted such an important issue which had subsequently been passed to South Wales Police.

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection concluded his report by summarising the outcome of a meeting which was held on the 25th February 2015 between Licensing Officers and several licensed drivers and operators in respect of taxi related matters of concern to the group. The specific areas of concern were listed for the benefit of members with a view to providing a more in depth report at the next meeting for members of the committee which will capture the discussions and the subsequent response of the group.

There were no prosecutions or appeals for the period and following an question and answer session Members **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

68. 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

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

Delegated Authority for the period 6th January 2015 to 1st March 2015
and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

A. S. Fox
Chairman

The meeting closed at 6.00pm