

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th September, 2021 at The Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall, S80 2AH**

Present: Councillor J Potts (Chair)

Councillors:	N J Sanders	A Coultate
	T P Eaton	K M Greaves
	D J Merryweather	J Naish
	C Plevin	D R Pressley
	J M Sanger MBE	C Tindle

Officers in attendance: S Aston, S Bacon and J Flynn.

(The meeting opened at 6.30 pm.)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, read out the fire alarm/ evacuation procedure and also enquired as to whether anyone wanted to film/ record the meeting in accordance with legislation; however, there were no members of the public present.

**12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Depledge.

**13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

13a **MEMBERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest by Members.

13b **OFFICERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest by officers.

**14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JULY 2021**

A couple of minor errors were noted where the meeting had been referred to as held virtually and the Minutes for Actions had been referred to as the Outstanding Minutes. The date of the previous meeting was the 21<sup>st</sup> April, rather than the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved subject to the agreed amendments.

**15 MINUTES FOR ACTION**

Regarding Minute No. 9, the Principle Solicitor (Licensing and Regulatory) (PS(LR)) informed Members that the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2022-2025 was currently out for consultation ending on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes for Action be received.

**16 OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST**

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In reference to Minute No. 10, the PS(LR) advised the Committee that following the review of driver medicals, the three providers were appointed to carry out Group 2 Medicals on behalf of the Council. The Licensing Team were following up with any drivers who had missed their medical due to Covid. The three providers will be reviewed in six months to ensure the arrangement is working satisfactorily.

**RESOLVED** that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

### KEY DECISIONS

None.

### OTHER DECISIONS

#### 17 REPORT(S) OF PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR (LICENSING AND REGULATORY)

##### 17a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy Amendments

The Committee was presented with a report on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy Amendments.

The PS(LR) advised that the Council was seeking to extend the maximum age of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles set in the policy from five to seven years.

A shortage of licensed vehicles in the district had been identified by a recent survey and it was hoped that this would increase the number of licensed vehicles available in the district and make it more affordable to set up a business.

If a vehicle has been initially licensed before it reaches 7 years of age those vehicles will then continue to be issued a vehicle licence up until they reach ten years of age.

In response to questions the PS(LR) confirmed that vehicles would still be tested three times per year, with two supplementary inspections, by Bassetlaw District Council, in addition to the required MOT. The savings would be in the cost of buying a seven year old vehicle compared to a five year old vehicle. The department had previously tried to establish a recognised body of joint Hire Purchase Vehicles and Private Hire Vehicles but the last consultation received less than 11% feedback.

**RESOLVED** that the references in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be amended to read; The Council will not consider issuing a new licence to a vehicle which is more than seven years of age from the date of registration on the log book (V5C).

#### 18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and after considering the public interest test as set out by the officer in the body of the report, Members agreed that the following items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and therefore, in accordance with Section 100A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting:

Agenda Item No. 7a – Application for Combined Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver's Licence – Paragraph 1

Agenda Item No. 7b – Application for Combined Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver's Licence – Paragraph 1

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### KEY DECISIONS

None.

### OTHER DECISIONS

#### 19 REPORT(S) OF PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR (LICENSING AND REGULATORY)

##### 19a Applications for Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence

The Committee was asked to determine the application for a one-year Combined Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Drivers Licence.

The applicant was present and answered questions posed by Members in reference to the application. The applicant was joined by his prospective employer who spoke in support of the application.

**RESOLVED** that the applicant be granted a one-year Combined Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence with a warning as to future conduct for the duration of the licence.

##### 19b Application for Combined Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Driver's Licence

The Committee was asked to determine the application for a one-year Combined Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Drivers Licence.

The applicant was present and answered questions posed by Members regarding the application. The applicant's prospective employer was also in attendance and spoke in support of the application.

**RESOLVED** that the application be deferred until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to allow the Principle Solicitor (Licensing and Regulatory) to request disclosure from the police.

#### 20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

The Chair advised that she had requested the PS(LR) to make enquiries about taxi marshals at Christmas. The PS(LR) stated this would not be possible with budget constraints but she would look into other possible options for funding.

The PS(LR) informed Members that the Council was going to be publicising the need for a Breeder's Licence. A licence is required if more than two litters are bred and any of the puppies are sold or over £1000 profit is made.

As there was no other urgent business to be discussed, the Chair closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 8.06 pm.)