

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (REGULATORY)

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Regulatory) held on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 11.00 am

Committee Cllr M Batey

Members Present:

Cllr E Vardy
Cllr L Withington (Chairman)

Officers in Attendance: Legal Advisor (LA)
Licensing Enforcement Officer (LEO)
Democratic Services Officer – Regulatory

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Housden. Cllr M Batey was present as a substitute.

2 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.

5 (WK/230099098) - APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES IN NORTH NORFOLK

Present: Licence Applicant

The Chairman, Members of the Panel and Officers introduced themselves. The Chairman outlined the procedure for the meeting.

The LA addressed preliminary issues per the procedure note.

The LEO presented their report which related to an application for a 'Licence to Drive Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles in North Norfolk'. A Disclosure Barring Service report had subsequently been received in respect of the applicant, which contained details about the applicant which merited further consideration.

The Applicant introduced himself and outlined the circumstances surrounding his conviction. He explained that the offense took place when he was a teenager, over

50 years prior, and was in defence of his then partner from a member of the public who was known to the Applicant and his family. He stated he was ashamed of his actions and had not committed an offense since.

In response to questions from Members, the LEO and LA; the Applicant explained the reasons why he wanted to be a taxi driver and commented this occupation would suit his lifestyle, as he was not interested in a full-time role. He confirmed he had no driving convictions here or abroad.

Having considered relevant written and oral evidence before it, the Sub-Committee deemed that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence. Members were satisfied that the Applicant had presented his case well and appreciated his contrite nature.

RESOLVED

That the licence be GRANTED.

6 (WK/230098420) - APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES IN NORTH NORFOLK

Present: Licence Applicant

The Chairman, Members of the Panel and Officers introduced themselves. The Chairman outlined the procedure for the meeting.

The LA addressed preliminary issues per the procedure note.

The LEO presented their report which related to an application for a 'Licence to Drive Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles in North Norfolk'. A Disclosure Barring Service report had subsequently been received in respect of the applicant, which contained details about the applicant which merited further consideration.

The Applicant outlined the incident resulting in his conviction and expressed remorse for his actions. The incident took place when the Applicant was inebriated, as such he had foggy recollection of events. The applicant confirmed his actions were not malicious, and this could be verified by witnesses who had informed him the incident had been as a result of confusion over whose property was whose. The Applicant stated he was deeply embarrassed and ashamed of the event and its outcome.

Members asked the Applicant to elaborate his experience as a taxi driver. The Applicant discussed his experience and affirmed that he had not attended any speed awareness training nor had been convicted of a driving offense. He advised he held a contract with Norfolk County Council to operate a taxi for school services for several years without issue. His application related to work he would undertake separately with a different contractor not related to schoolwork.

The Applicant advised he was an honest and hard-working person who went the extra mile for his customers, providing examples of instances where he went above and beyond. He commented that he enjoyed the work and reiterated his regret for his actions.

Having considered relevant written and oral evidence before it, the Sub-Committee

deemed that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence. The Sub-Committee considered the applicant had spoken well and appreciated his honesty throughout.

RESOLVED

That the licence be GRANTED.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm.

Chairman