

LICENSING AND APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 13 June 2018 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer at 10.00 am.

Sub-Committee Mr S Hester (Chairman)
Mr N Pearce
Mr B Smith

Officers in Attendance: Public Protection Manager, Legal Advisor and Democratic Services & Governance Officer (Regulatory)

1 APOLOGIES

None.

2 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4 EXCLUSION OF 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.

5 Application for a Licence to Drive Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles in North Norfolk (WK/180007181)

Present: Applicant

The Chairman introduced the Panel Members and Officers.

The Legal Advisor outlined the purpose of the hearing and explained the procedure for the meeting.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report. The applicant had applied for a licence to drive hackney carriage or private hire vehicles in North Norfolk and his DBS check had revealed that he had previous convictions.

The Chairman invited the applicant to present his case.

The Applicant stated that he had relocated to the area. He gave details of his previous and current employment and driving experience. He currently held a Security Industry Authority badge. He had applied for a taxi licence as he had been offered a job with a local taxi firm. He explained that his offences had

occurred many years ago when he was young, and in a group situation where the whole group had got the blame. He had been silly, but had been of good character ever since.

The applicant answered Members' questions regarding his application, driving style, people skills and how he would handle difficult situations.

There were no further questions.

The applicant did not wish to make a closing statement.

The Legal Advisor advised the Sub-Committee Members that they must be satisfied that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence in the District. She advised the Sub-Committee to consider the type, seriousness and relevance of previous convictions, how long ago they occurred and the Applicant's comments. She stated that the penalties for the offences had been relatively small.

The Sub-Committee retired at 10.20 am and returned at 10.27 am.

RESOLVED

That the licence be granted.

6 Application for a Licence to Drive Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles in North Norfolk (WK/180008380)

Present: Applicant

The Chairman introduced the Panel Members and Officers.

The Legal Advisor outlined the purpose of the hearing and explained the procedure for the meeting.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report. The Applicant had applied for a licence to drive hackney carriage or private hire vehicles in North Norfolk and his DBS check had revealed matters that required consideration. She explained that the Applicant had received a warning and a caution for his offences but had not been convicted, and therefore had correctly answered "no" to question 8.1 on the application form regarding previous convictions. She also drew attention to Medical Certificate which confirmed the Applicant's fitness to drive.

The Chairman invited the applicant to present his case.

The Applicant explained that he had applied for a taxi licence as he had been given an opportunity to help expand the family business and to allow him to save for a deposit on a house.

In response to questions by Councillor B Smith, the Applicant explained the circumstances which led to his warning and caution and responded to questions by the Panel. He explained that he had since settled down with his girlfriend and regretted the incidents.

The Chairman stated that the Panel could only take the Applicant's explanation at face value. He acknowledged that the Applicant had had a difficult time, which would be taken into consideration when determining the application. The safety of the public was the Panel's main concern. He noted the excellent references which had been supplied.

The Applicant answered questions regarding his medical report and how he would handle stressful situations while driving.

There were no further questions.

The applicant did not wish to make a closing statement.

The Sub-Committee retired at 10.48 am and returned at 11.07 am.

RESOLVED

That the licence be granted.

The meeting closed at 11.09 am

Chairman