

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
WBC Licensing and Control Committee 'A' of  
Worthing Borough Council**

**Gordon Room, Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing**

**Monday 30 January 2017**

Councillor Paul High (Chairman)

Paul Baker	Susan Jelliss
Keith Bickers	Luke Proudfoot
*Joan Bradley	Jane Sim
Callum Buxton	Bob Smytherman
Edward Crouch	Paul Westover
Lionel Harman	Steve Wills
Joshua High	Tom Wye

\*Absent

**LCCA/16-17/20    Declarations of Interest / Substitute Members**

Nil.

**LCCA/16-17/21    Confirmation of Minutes**

That the minutes be amended to reflect a change to the scoring of 'Using a non-hands free mobile telephone whilst driving' - that this should be amended to 10 points

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Licensing and Control Committee A meeting of held on the 15 December 2016 be approved as amended.

**LCCA/16-17/22    Public Question Time**

A member of the public made reference to the taxi and private hire handbook, members were given a list that the taxi and private hire trade felt had been added or amended since the meeting where the handbook had been agreed. The Chairman responded and asked the committee's agreement to set up a working group to investigate the claims made by the trade. Councillors Josh High and Paul Baker agreed to join the working group along with a member of the trade; Mr Andrew Carr.

**LCCA/16-17/23    Exclusion of the press and public**

**Resolved:** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting from the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act indicated against the item.

**LCCA/16-17/24 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976  
Determination of a new application for a Private Hire Driver Licence**

Before the committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. Due to the details of the application the matter was referred to the Head of Service for consideration but it was deemed appropriate that the decision as to whether a licence could be granted, subject to the applicant successfully completing all the required stages, should be taken by the Licensing & Control Committee.

The committee undertook and completed the procedure to deal with the matter.

*The committee adjourned at 6.46pm to consider its decision*

*The committee reconvened at 7.03pm*

The meeting was told that in reaching its decision, the Licensing Committee had given due regard to relevant legislation and guidance within the Councils' Taxi and Private Hire Handbook. The Committee also gave regard to human rights legislation and the rules of natural justice. Due consideration was given to representations that were made at the hearing and in writing.

**Resolved:** that the Private Hire driver's licence be granted

**Reasons for decision:** The decision was made on the basis that the applicant lost his licence to an alcohol related offence in 2010 his licence was returned in March 2013. Whilst departing from the policy, the committee is mindful of the wording of the taxi handbook that 'would normally preclude an application from being granted a licence for a period of five years from the time the persons DVLA licence is restored'. In this instance the committee is mindful of the date the applicant could have applied for his licence in February 2012. The committee also took into account other mitigating circumstances put forward by the applicant

The applicant was told that he would be issued with a decision within 5 working days.

**LCCA/16-17/23 Licensing committee constitutional changes**

Before the Committee was a report by the Monitoring Officer, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a signed copy of which is attached as item 4. The report before the committee provided an opportunity for governance arrangements and procedure rules to be reviewed; and an opportunity to streamline procedures and to combine best practice from Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

The Committee discussed the report and in particular the proposal to introduce sub-committees to deal with taxi and private hire applications and reviews. There was consensus that the full committee provided an opportunity to get the best decision because of the diverse range of skills and opinion contained within a full committee. Members felt that the current structure and working practices of the committee were robust and did not need amendment.

**Recommendation:** that it be recommended to the Joint Governance Committee that:

That the proposals be not accepted and that the current constitutional arrangements be not amended.

The meeting was declared closed at by the Chairman at 7.45pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

**Chairman**