

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8th June, 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Keith Sears (Chairman)
Councillor Bill Tweddle (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Leslie Beeley
Councillor Arthur Bentley
Councillor Barbara Cassidy
Councillor Ayshea Johnson
Councillor Cath Micklewright
Councillor Kath Phillips
Councillor Robbie Robinson
Councillor John Rochelle
Councillor Carol Rose
Councillor Harbans Sarohi

790/05

Changes in Membership

The following changes in membership, for this meeting only, were noted:-

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Delete: | Councillor Barton |
| Substitute: | Councillor Phillips |

791/05

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Beilby and Councillor Clarke.

792/05

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 17th March, 7th April and 11th May, 2005, copies having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

793/05 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

794/05 **Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations or petitions submitted.

795/05 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

796/05 **Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted and that the Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group be re-established in accordance with the Terms of Reference appended to the report now submitted and that the following Members be appointed to the Group for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year:-

Councillor Cath Micklewright
Councillor Robbie Robinson
Councillor John Rochelle
Councillor Carol Rose
Councillor Keith Sears

797/05 **Consideration of a single colour for private hire vehicles and change to licensing plates/stickers on private hire and hackney carriage vehicles**

The report of the Head of Public Protection was submitted:-

(see annexed)

A letter from the Walsall Private Hire Association regarding the new identification for private hire vehicles was circulated:-

(see annexed)

The Chairman referred to the letter from the Private Hire Association and advised Members that the issues raised in the letter had been previously considered at the Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group.

With regard to updating and revising the licensing paraphernalia displayed in private hire vehicles, it was **moved** by Councillor Robinson and duly **seconded**:-

That approval be given to the use of identification plates and side stickers supplied by VIP for both private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared **carried** unanimously.

Resolved

That approval be given to the use of identification plates and side stickers supplied by VIP for both private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

With regard to the unification of colour for private hire vehicles, Mr. Corlett suggested that there be no imposition of a single colour at this stage until the impact of the new identification plates was known.

Mr. Corlett advised Members that should the Committee agree to impose one uniform colour, this would involve conducting a survey of members of the public which would cost in the region of £20,000. There were no funds available in the budget which would necessitate a request to Cabinet to identify necessary funding.

It was subsequently **moved** by the Chairman and duly **seconded**:-

- (1) That the Committee impose one uniform colour for private hire vehicles phased in over five years, that colour to be silver;
- (2) That Cabinet be requested to identify the necessary funding to allow the public survey to be undertaken.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared lost, five Members voting in favour and six against, with one abstention.

With regard to updating the licence plates for hackney carriages, it was,

Resolved

To require the display of additional information on the licence plate, the size of the licence plate fitted to a hackney carriage to be of sufficient size to accommodate the following information required:-

- (i) Plate Number;
- (ii) Registration Number;
- (iii) Expiry date of licence;
- (iv) Number of passengers licensed to be carried;
- (v) Licensing Authority identification.

798/05 **Update for Members on The Gambling Act, 2005**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

799/05 **Licensing Act, 2003**

The Licensing Officer gave Members a brief update on the applications received under the new legislation and indicated that it was now necessary to convene Licensing Sub-Committees to consider those applications where representations had been received. She advised Members that training on the conduct of hearings would be held at the Council House on Tuesday, 14th June, 2005 between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Members expressed their concern regarding their attendance at the Licensing Sub-Committee hearings and the parking facilities available to them. Members noted the need to discuss their concerns with officers.

800/05 **Private Session**

Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That, during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Committee considers that the items for consideration are exempt information for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 and accordingly resolves to consider those items in private.

Summary of Matters considered in Private Session

Private Hire Licences

The Committee considered representations in respect of a number of taxi/private hire matters and made decisions thereon.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 7 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972)

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.17 p.m.

Chairman

Date