

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 5th December, 2007 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 Joan Barton
Councillor Leslie Beeley
Councillor Joan Beilby
Councillor Mike Bird
Councillor Peter Hughes
Councillor John Rochelle
Councillor Peter Smith
Councillor Graham Wilkes

1117/07 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dennis Anson, Barbara Cassidy and Cath Micklewright.

1118/07 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October, 2007, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1119/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tweddle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6 on the agenda relating to an application for a street trading consent renewal and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

1120/07 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

Reference was made to item 7 on the agenda and a question was raised as to whether it needed to be considered in the private session of the agenda.

Resolved (Unanimously)

That item 7, Private Hire and Hackney Carriages Testing Report – April to September 2007, be considered in the public session of the agenda.

1121/07 **Taxi/Private Hire Matters**

(a) Colour, Design and Livery of Hackney Carriages / Private Hire Vehicles

A revised report of the Head of Public Protection was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. John Beavon was in attendance for this item and advised members that the revised report had been prepared due to the fact that the original report which had been dispatched in the post had included issues which could not be discussed, by virtue of the Councils Constitution, for a period of six months after a decision on the issue had been taken by the Committee.

Mr. Beavon displayed possible signage for Members consideration.

Resolved (Unanimously)

That the MOGO poster displaying the number 386 be approved for display on euro style private hire vehicles only.

(b) Taxi Marshalling – Sources of Funding

Resolved

That this item be deferred

1122/07 **Private Hire and hackney Carriages Testing Report for the Period April to September 2007**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That officers be requested to continue with current vehicle testing frequency, with the option for random checks;
- (b) That private hire / hackney carriage operators be encouraged to implement a more robust vehicle maintenance/service programme;
- (c) That the current vehicle age licensing conditions be continued;

- (d) That the recommendation from the Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group to implement an action plan to introduce a failure to attend fee of £25 if less than 24 hours or no notice is given on non-attendance at scheduled tests be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 23rd January, 2008 and that officers be requested to prepare a report to include the financial and legal implications of this issue.

Councillor Tweddle left the meeting prior to consideration of the next item on the agenda.

1123/07 **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

1124/07 **Application for a Street Trading Consent to be Renewed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982**

The Committee considered representations in respect of an application for a street trading consent and made a decision thereon.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.38 p.m.

Chairman

Date