

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Licensing Committee held on Friday 2 July 2004 at 9.30 am in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillors Paula Riches (Chair)
Geoff Goble (Vice-Chair)
Elaine Baker
Tom Blair (left the meeting at 11.10 am)
Margaret Foster
Jacqui Hancock
Lee Mason
Robin Sparshatt
Debbie Tomes

27 Members' Interests in Accordance With Standing Order No 14 (AI 1)

Councillor Sparshatt declared a non-prejudicial interest with regards to agenda item 5 – Application for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Company A – in that he has also bought a car from Pentagon Mercedes.

Councillor Tom Blair declared a non-prejudicial interest with regards to agenda item 5 – Application for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Company A – in that Portsmouth City Council have an account with Aqua Cars and in his capacity as Deputy Lord Mayor he regularly used them.

28 Minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2004 (AI 2)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

It was noted that minute heading "Any Other Business" should be number 26 and not 16.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 14 May 2004 be agreed and signed by the chair as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

29 Matters Arising from the Minutes (AI 3)

(a) Minute 26/04 – Any Other Business The Royal Beach Hotel

Councillor Elaine Baker asked for an update on the situation regarding private hire vehicles picking up customers outside the Royal Beach Hotel. The Licensing Manager responded by saying that she was still pursuing alternative arrangements for private hire to pick up passengers and would report back at the next meeting.

(b) Minute 25/04 – Licensing Tour

Councillor Geoff Goble asked if a date had been agreed. The Licensing Manager responded by saying that she had been waiting for the new committee after the elections and Annual Council meeting and that a date would be organised possibly in October around Freshers' Week, to include taxis, nightclubs and late night street vendors.

30 Exclusion of Press and Public (AI 4)

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business because it is likely that if members of the public are present, there would be disclosure to them of "exempt information" within paragraphs 4 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Item		Paragraph
5	Application for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Company A	4 & 7
6	Consideration of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr J	4 & 7

31 Application for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Company A (AI 5)

(TAKE IN EXEMPT REPORT BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

Mr W and the company driver were in attendance.

The simplified hearing procedure was followed.

As part of the applicant's case members viewed the vehicle concerned, in the underground car park.

LM

RESOLVED that the application for the grant of a private hire vehicle licence – Company A – be refused for the reasons to be included as part of the decision letter sent to Company A.

32 Consideration of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr J (AI 6)

(TAKE IN EXEMPT REPORT BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

Mr J and the proprietor of the vehicle concerned (Mr B) were in attendance.

The simplified hearing procedure was followed.

During the Licensing Manager's presentation of the case, she circulated a copy of a report from the police which she had referred to on page 2 of the committee report.

Members were also shown a copy of the CCTV video recording relating to this case.

LM

RESOLVED that the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr J be revoked immediately for the reasons outlined within the Licensing Manager's report and to be included as part of the decision letter sent to Mr J.

33 Any Other Business

Councillor Tom Blair had earlier raised the issue of training for members on liquor licences.

The Licensing Manager responded by saying that she was awaiting guidance from the government on the new regulations. However, she had been in discussion with Southampton City Council with regards to member training and a possible timetable for implementation. When further information had been received, Nickii would inform members.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.

Chair