



TAXI AND GENERAL SUB COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RHYMNEY ROOM, PENALLTA HOUSE,
TREDOMEN, YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 2017 AT 10.00
AM**

PRESENT

Councillors:

Mrs D. Price, R. Whiting and L.G. Whittle (part of meeting)

D. Cushing (observing – part of meeting)

Together with:

L. Morgan (Licensing Manager), J. Lloyd (Senior Licensing Administrator), R. Furmage (Licensing Administrator), S. Ead (Solicitor), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Legal Advisor advised the Sub Committee that due to the unavailability of both the Chair and Vice-Chair for this meeting, they needed to elect a Member to preside as acting Chair. The Sub Committee unanimously voted to elect Councillor Mrs D. Price to preside as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Mrs D. Price and is minuted with the respective item.

4. APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCES

Councillor Mrs D. Price declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the applicant is known to her and left the meeting during consideration of the item. In her absence, Councillor L.G. Whittle presided as acting Chair for this item.

The Taxi and General Sub Committee unanimously RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting and to the driver when present, and following inspection of the vehicle (registration XXXX), the application of XXXX of XXXX, Bargoed, for a hackney carriage licence, be granted. The Sub Committee were of the view that there was suitable visibility into the vehicle as to ensure the safety of any passengers and the driver.

5. APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCES

The Taxi and General Sub Committee unanimously RESOLVED that:-

1. For the reasons outlined at the meeting and to the driver when present, and following inspection of the vehicle (registration no. XXXX), the licensed seating capacity of existing hackney carriage licence no. XXX, held XXXX of XXXX, Caerphilly, be increased to carry 6 passengers. The Sub Committee were of the view that there was adequate knee space within the vehicle and reasonable access to all the seating areas.

2. For the reasons outlined at the meeting and to the driver when present, and following inspection of the vehicle (registration no. XXXX), the application of XXXX of XXXX, Hengoed, for a hackney carriage licence, be refused. The Sub Committee were of the view that the vehicle does not comply with the Council's conditions of application for a hackney carriage licence in relation to window tinting.

The level of tints recorded were below the minimum light transmission level of 70%, and upon physical inspection, the Sub Committee could not see into the window to a sufficient degree so as to be satisfied that the licence could be granted. The Sub Committee were not convinced that any exceptional circumstances existed, in relation to the transport of taxi passengers, to enable them to depart from the Council's policy. The applicant was advised of his appeal rights to the local magistrates court within 21 days from written notification of the decision.

6. COUNCILLOR L.G. WHITTLE

Councillor L.G. Whittle gave his apologies and left the meeting at 11.35 a.m. owing to another commitment, and the Sub-Committee continued with two Members for the remainder of the meeting.

7. APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCES

The Taxi and General Sub Committee unanimously RESOLVED that:-

1. For the reasons outlined at the meeting and to the driver when present, and following inspection of the vehicle (registration no. XXXX), the application of XXXX of XXXX, Bedwas, for a hackney carriage licence, be refused. The Sub Committee were of the view that the vehicle does not comply with the Council's conditions of application for a hackney carriage licence in relation to window tinting.

The rear passenger windows of the vehicle only allowed a light transmission level of 10%, and upon physical inspection, the Sub Committee could not see into the window to a sufficient degree so as to be satisfied that the licence could be granted. The Sub Committee were not convinced that any exceptional circumstances existed, in relation to the transport of taxi passengers, to enable them to depart from the Council's Licensing Policy. The applicant was advised of his appeal rights to the local magistrates court within 21 days from written notification of the decision. It was explained to the applicant that if he were to secure a school transport contract in the future and could supply written letters of support from service users relating to the current levels of tint for his vehicle, the Sub Committee may be able to consider a new application for the same vehicle at a future

date and determine whether there are exceptional circumstances which would enable them to depart from the Council's Licensing Policy.

2. For the reasons outlined at the meeting and to the driver when present, and following inspection of the vehicle (registration no. XXXX), the application of XXXX of XXXX, XXXX, New Tredegar, for a hackney carriage licence, to carry 6 passengers, be granted. The Sub Committee were of the view that there was adequate knee space within the vehicle and reasonable access to all the seating areas.

8. APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS LICENCE

The Taxi and General Sub Committee unanimously RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting and to the applicant when present, the application of XXXX of XXXX, Ystrad Mynach for a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence, be granted for a period of 3 years, subject to a letter of warning as to his future conduct being sent.

The meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.

CHAIR