

Public Protection Committee



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| Date | 24 November 2010 |
| Venue | Town Hall, St Annes |
| Committee members | Angela Jacques (Chairman) Dawn Prestwich (Vice-Chairman) Christine Akeroyd, Frank Andrews, Keith Beckett, John Davies, Leonard Davies, Barbara Douglas, Ken Hopwood, |
| Other Councillors | Cheryl Little |
| Officers | Clare Holmes, Chris Hambly, Annie Womack, |
| Others | Sgt Rushworth; applicants |

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee held on 5 August 2010 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

None

4. Designated Public Place Order (DPPO)

At the last committee meeting on 5 August a report had been presented to members to advise them of a request for the introduction of a DPPO within the Kilnhouse area. The report sought the authority of the committee to commence consultation with a view to introducing the DPPO. The committee had authorised that consultation.

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that the process had now been undertaken, that interested parties had been consulted with, and that a Public Notice had been placed in the local newspaper. As a result of the consultation exercise, an amendment had been made to the original designated area, to include open land at the junction of Kilnhouse Lane and Blackpool Road.

Sgt Bob Rushworth spoke in favour of the DPPO and said that it was a proportionate response to the problem of young adults drinking in public in the area.

Letters supporting the introduction of a DPPO were provided from Lancashire Constabulary, the Community Safety Manager, and the Town Council. Members were also provided with a map showing the boundaries of the proposed DPPO.

After a discussion, the committee RESOLVED:

1. To approve the Designated Public Place Order for the area of the Kilnhouse Ward shown in the map attached to the report.

(It was noted that the commencement date of the DPPO would be 4th January 2011, to allow for advertising.)

The Chairman indicated that she felt the matter was not controversial and that no useful purpose would be served by having a recorded vote. The resolution was carried by a show of hands.

5. Request for Dispensation from Displaying Private Hire Vehicle Signage

Mr Hambly also introduced this report which related to the formal request from a licensed Private Hire Operator "Terminal 1" to have dispensation from displaying the required private hire vehicle signage.

Mr Hambly explained that members should be satisfied that the vehicles were of such a type and age that they would be appropriate for executive travel and that such work represented at least 80% of their business. He also told members that the Operators must still display a windscreen badge, and must carry licence plates and door signs in the boot of the car.

The applicant was invited to speak to the committee and he confirmed that the core business was pre-arranged business from the commercial sector for executive hire. The company had been in existence since September 2010.

Members asked the applicant to provide a log of customers and journeys to Mr Hambly and after discussion RESOLVED:

1. To grant delegated power for dispensation to the Chairman and Licensing Officer on receipt of a log which confirmed the core business was as stated by the applicant.

The Chairman indicated that she felt the matter was not controversial and that no useful purpose would be served by having a recorded vote. The resolution was carried by a show of hands.

6. Hackney Carriage Driver Application - WST

Mr Hambly advised the committee that WST had made an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence, and that the Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check had revealed a matter of concern.

WST had attended the meeting and was invited by the Chairman to address the committee, so that members could be assured whether he was a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence.

Committee members questioned the applicant closely and having satisfied themselves that he was a fit and proper person, after discussion RESOLVED:

1. To grant a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence to WST .

The Chairman indicated that she felt the matter was not controversial and that no useful purpose would be served by having a recorded vote. The resolution was carried by a show of hands.

7. Private Hire Driver Application - KM

Mr Hambly advised the committee that KM had withdrawn his application and the committee was therefore not required to make a determination.

8. Private Hire Driver Application - RM

Mr Hambly reported that a request had been received from RM for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

RM had previously been licensed by the authority, but that licence expired on 11 October 2010 and had not been renewed. RM was subsequently found, on 9th November, to be working as a private hire driver without a licence.

Mr Hambly explained that RM had been formally interviewed regarding the offence noted above and also that he was consistently late with his applications for renewal. On this occasion, the lapse had also meant that a new CRB check had to be requested, but this had not yet been received. He told the committee that RM had been driving as a private hire driver for several years and that this was his livelihood.

RM had attended the meeting and was invited by the Chairman to address the committee, so that members could receive his explanation regarding the lateness of his application.

The committee considered the matter and RESOLVED:

1. To grant the licence, subject to receipt of an acceptable CRB check, and subject also to a warning letter being issued to RM to advise of the future consequences of failure to submit a renewal application on time.

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