



MINUTES

Public Protection Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 16th November 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Shirley Green (Chairman) Councillor Ray Thomas (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Gavin Harrison, Karen Henshaw, Angela Jacques, Michael Sayward and Stan Trudgill.
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Carolyn Bland, Ian Curtis, Andy Hough, Christine Wood
Other Attendees:	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver - AA One Member of the public

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

Councillors Ray Thomas and Councillor Karen Henshaw declared a personal interest in relation to item 4 in that each was an acquaintance of the complainant. They remained in the meeting during the discussion and determination of the item.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 6 July 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitutes in attendance at the meeting.

Decision Items

4. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver - AA

Andy Hough, Technical Enforcement Officer, introduced a report in relation to a current licensed driver, AA, a Combined Hackney and Private Hire Driver holder. The Committee was requested to determine whether they considered AA to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

It was reported that a complaint had been received by a member of the public alleging that AA had refused to carry an assistance dog in his vehicle which was in contravention of Section 168 of the Equality Act 2010. Details of the issue, including a statement from the complainant and the transcript of an interview with the driver, were provided to the Committee. AA had previously been given a written warning about his conduct as a driver following a complaint about his driving.

The driver was invited to address members and respond to questions and following this, the meeting was adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held. In particular, the Committee discussed at length whether the conduct of AA was serious enough to merit suspension of his licence. Following the discussion:

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Request AA to attend a meeting at Fylde Borough Council with Senior Council Officers regarding his future conduct as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver; and
2. Issue a strongly worded warning letter to AA regarding his future conduct as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver; and
3. If AA failed to attend a meeting, to consider the conduct concerned again at the next meeting of the Committee with a view to suspending his licence.

5. Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence - VBM

The Committee was advised that the above application had been withdrawn.

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