

Minutes

Public Protection Committee



Date:	Friday, 12 December 2014
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members:	Councillor Angela Jacques (Chairman) Councillors Christine Akeroyd, Frank Andrews, Keith Beckett ISO, Alan Clayton, John Davies, Tony Ford JP, Ken Hopwood, Barbara Nash.
Other councillors:	None
Officers:	Ian Curtis, Michael Duck, Chris Hambly, Sharon Wadsworth
Other attendees:	AC and J Coombes

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 Akeroyd, J Davies, Hopwood and Jacques declared an interest in agenda items 5 and 6 in so far as that they were members of the Council when Mr Coombes was Leader of the Council.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 23 September 2014 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23(c):

There were no substitutions.

4. Hackney Carriage Driver Licence - AC

Chris Hambly, Principal Licensing Officer, presented a report concerning a current licensed driver. AC had recently received a simple caution for an offence of common assault, which occurred on the 4th October 2014. The offence had not occurred during his day to day working as a taxi driver.

The applicant was invited to address the committee and responded to questions from members in relation to the offence.

Members briefly adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held.

The committee considered the matter and RESOLVED to take no further action against AC.

5. Request to Licence Smart Cars as Private Hire Vehicles

Mr Hambly presented an application that had been received, from John Coombes of Fylde Executive Cars, to licence a Smart Car as a passenger private hire vehicle. Mr Hambly explained that although the Smart Car appears small it had high levels of passenger comfort inside and that there was a generous amount of space in terms of head and leg room. The vehicle was built as a passenger carrying vehicle by a mainstream manufacturer and had a very good NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme) safety rating of four stars.

Member briefly adjourned to the car park to inspect a Smart Car that had been made available for them before inviting Mr Coombes to address the committee. Mr Coombes explained his proposal and responded to questions from members.

Following discussion and a show of hands it was RESOLVED to allow a Smart Car to be licensed as a private hire vehicle, notwithstanding the council's policy, in view of the levels of comfort and safety provided by the vehicle and the limited market niche that it was intended to fill.

6. Private Hire Vehicle Signage

Mr Hambly presented a report detailing a request that had been received to allow for extensive company livery to be displayed on private hire vehicles in place of the normal council notices. The proposal would be a deviation from the councils Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. Mr Hambly explained that neighbouring boroughs do not allow full livery on private hire vehicles and if the proposal was approved then a precedent would be set for other companies to request similar livery. This would make it extremely difficult to distinguish licensed private hire vehicles, with potentially detrimental effects for public safety.

Following a full debate it was RESOLVED to defer the request for further deliberation at the next meeting of the Public Protection Committee.

Councillor Ford left the meeting before voting commenced on item 6.

7. Street Trading

Mr Hambly introduced a report concerning the Governments response to a consultation exercise regarding proposals to amend street trading legislation. Mr Hambly explained that the proposals suggested some amendments to Street Trading Consents that would have an impact upon the Authority.

It was RESOLVED to note the report.

8. Caravan Licensing - Greenacres Caravan Site.

Mr Duck, Senior Environmental Health Officer, presented a report relating to Greenacres Caravan Park, Bryning Lane, Warton. Greenacres is a family run touring caravan site with seven existing seasonal touring pitches and communal toilet block.

The applicant was seeking to amend Condition 1 of the existing licence to bring the site licence in line with planning permission granted on 3rd October 2013, 13/0519, for an overall increase from seven to eighteen seasonal pitches.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services had been consulted and had not raised any objections to the application.

After discussion, it was RESOLVED to amend Condition 1, of the holiday site licence, to read “The total number of caravans stationed on the site at any one time shall be such as to enable compliance with the requirements of this schedule to be maintained and in any case shall not exceed 18 (eighteen)”.

9. Caravan Licensing – Lawndale Country Park

Mr Duck presented a report relating to Lawnsdale Country Park, situated on Lytham Road, Moss Side between Lytham and Wrea Green.

An application had been received to amend Condition 23 of the existing site licence, “No caravan on the site shall be occupied during the period between 18th January and 28th February in any year”. Mr Duck explained that planning consents 08/0112 and 13/0049 removed closure period and effectively the site could remain open throughout the year. The applicant, however, was seeking to retain a closure period of two weeks via the site licence.

Mr Duck confirmed that the changes sought would not change the site into a residential one as the Planning Department had, in consent 13/0049, attached conditions to ensure caravans are not being used as a persons’ sole or main residence.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services had been consulted and had not raised any objections to the application.

After discussion, it was RESOLVED to amend Condition 23 of the site licence to read “No caravan on the site shall be occupied during the period between 15th February and 28th February in any year”.

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