

MINUTES

Public Protection Committee

Date:	Thursday, 28 November 2019
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Angela Jacques (Chairman) Councillor Frank Andrews (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Gavin Harrison, Michael Sayward, Stan Trudgill.
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambly, Tara Walsh
Other Attendees:	ABC

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.

No interests were declared on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 17 July 2019 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitutions on this occasion

4. Application To Licence A Mercedes Sprinter Minibus Conversion As A Private Hire Vehicle

Chris Hambly (Environmental Services Manager) presented a request which had been received from John Coombes of Fylde Executive Cars to licence a converted Mercedes Sprinter Minibus.

Mr Hambly explained that the type of vehicle requested does not currently meet the Councils specification, namely due to the overall length of the vehicle which is 19.458 feet, and as such, sits outside the Hackney Carriage and Private Licensing Policy which suggests a maximum length of no more than 18 feet. It was noted however that this policy was primarily intended to accommodate vehicles using hackney carriage stands and as such, may not be a direct concern when considering licensing a private hire vehicle.

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Furthermore, the vehicle requested had been manufactured with two front doors, as opposed to three which is required by policy. However, members were informed that this concern could potentially be mitigated by the design of windows/hatches as highlighted in the report.

A number of questions were raised during the discussion of this item. These related to: procedures for deviating from the policy, and the age of the vehicle. These were answered in full by Mr Hambly.

The committee AGREED to licence the Mercedes Sprinter Minibus as a private hire vehicle.

5. Caravan Site Licensing- Little Orchard Caravan Park

Chris Hambly (Environmental Services Manager) presented a report in relation to an application which had been received from Mr J and Mrs L Johnson to increase the number of spaces for touring caravans at Little Orchard Caravan Park from 45 to 57. This request would seek to amend condition 1 of the site licence issued on 1st October 2014.

Both the Planning and Licensing teams had been consulted on the application and no objections were made. A response had been received from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services which sought a number of recommendations for the owners and requested that a suitable site fire risk assessment be implemented.

It was informed that officers also undertook a site visit at the caravan park. All concerns resulting from this had been acknowledged by the owners.

Questions were asked which related to the risk of flooding and the winter storage arrangements at the site. These were answered in full by Mr Hambly.

Following a full discussion, the Committee AGREED to amend Condition 1 of the site licence by increasing the total number of touring caravan pitches at Little Orchard Caravan Park from 45 to 57.

6. Application For The Grant Of A Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence -ABC

Chris Hambly (Environmental Services Manager) was invited by the Chairman to present the report. Mr Hambly began by informing members that an application had been received from ABC for the grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence. The report asked the committee to consider the application and determine if the applicant would be a fit and proper to hold such a licence.

The Disclosure had revealed that the applicant had been barred from working or volunteering in regulated activity with children or adults. Further details of the matter were reported on at the meeting.

The committee went on to invite ABC to address members and to respond to questions. ABC indicated that the incident giving rise to his barring had been the subject of criminal proceedings which had resulted in his acquittal. He was presently awaiting the outcome of representations that he had made to the Disclosure and Barring Service as to why he ought to be taken off the barred list. Following this, the meeting was adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held.

The committee resumed following a full discussion and it was AGREED to reject ABC application on the grounds that while he was on the barred list, the committee were not satisfied he was a fit and proper person. The committee indicated that they would be happy to consider a further application from ABC if his representations to the Disclosure and Barring Service resulted in him being taken off the list. If a further application was made, the committee instructed that it be referred to the committee for consideration.

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