



MINUTES

Public Protection Committee

Date:	Monday, 11 December 2017
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Angela Jacques (Chairman) Councillor Barbara Nash (Vice Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Jan Barker, Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Gail Goodman JP, Shirley Green, Peter Hardy, Neil Harvey.
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambly, Michael Duck, Sharon Wadsworth, Tara Walsh.
Other Attendees:	PC, Mr D Whiteside and three members of the public were in attendance during the course of the meeting.

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. Councillor Brenda Blackshaw declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7 and withdrew from the meeting for the discussion and debate therein.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 27th September 2017 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members in attendance at the meeting.

Decision Items

4. Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence - PC

Mr Hambly, Environmental Services Manager, introduced a report detailing an application received from PC, for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence, for the Committee to consider and determine if they considered the applicant fit and proper to hold such a licence.

The Disclosure had revealed numerous convictions, mainly involving dishonesty, from between 1980 and 2003. These had been declared by the applicant on his application form.

The council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy indicated that applications from persons that had more than one conviction for a dishonesty offence would not normally be granted. PC was invited to address the committee to explain the nature of the convictions and why the policy should not be applied in this case. Following questions from the committee the members adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held.

The committee resumed following discussion of the matter in detail and RESOLVED not to deviate from the current policy and to refuse the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence to PC.

5. Request for an Increase in the Level of Hackney Carriage Fares

Mr. Hambly introduced a report with a request from Whitesides Taxis seeking an increase in the level of hackney fares amounting to 4.6%.

Mr. Whiteside was invited by the chairman to address the committee. Mr. Whiteside believed that the proposed increase was fair considering the last increase was in 2014, that it would help increase the number of new drivers, aid retention of existing drivers and would encourage investment in wheelchair accessible vehicles onto the fleet.

Following a detailed discussion the committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) Increase the level of fares by 4.6% as detailed within the report.
- 2) Increase the cost of extras from 20p to 40p.
- 3) For journeys where between 5 & 8 passengers are being conveyed, the drive may charge 1.5 times the metered fare.
- 4) Increase the soiling charge from £40 to £60.

6. Caravan Site Licensing – Bank Lane Caravan Park

Mr. Duck, Environmental Health Officer – Commercial, introduced a report relating to Bank Lane Caravan Park situated on Bank Lane, Warton. A request had been received from the site owner seeking to amend Condition 25, of the site licence issued on 12th May 2010, to allow year round holiday use.

Planning permission had been granted on 6th September 2017 to vary condition 1 on the planning application 5/89/0693 to allow the caravan park to remain open all year round.

Following a detailed discussion it was RESOLVED:

- 1) To amend Condition 25 of the site licence to allow all year round holiday use.
- 2) To notify the licence holder that the committee is minded to amend Condition 3 of the site licence by adding the requirement of proof of main residence. Condition 3 to read *“The owners/operators of the caravan site shall maintain a register of names of all owners/occupiers of individual caravans and evidence proof of their main home address, and shall make this information available at all reasonable times to the Local Authority”* and to offer the licence holder the opportunity to make representations.
- 3) In the event of the licence holder not making representations, to amend the condition 3 as detailed above.

7. Caravan Site Licensing – Westend Residential Caravan Park

(Having declared an interest in Item 7, Councillor Blackshaw left the meeting)

Mr Duck introduced a report in respect of Westend Residential Blackpool Road, Ribby with Wrea Green to increase the total number of residential caravans on the whole site from sixteen to forty-three.

Mr Duck clarified that the requested maximum number of residential caravans allowed on the site should be forty-three in line with the planning approval granted on 24th March 2017.

Following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED:

- 1) To amend Condition 1 of the site licence to read *“The total number of caravans stationed on the site at any one time shall not exceed 43 (Forty-three).”*

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