

Minutes

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Date:	Wednesday, 20 July 2016
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members:	Councillor Angela Jacques (Chairman) Councillor Barbara Nash (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Jan Barker, Keith Beckett ISO, Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Gail Goodman JP, Peter Hardy, Neil Harvey.
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Kathy Winstanley, Chris Hambly, Michael Duck, Sharon Wadsworth, Andy Hough, Tara Walsh
Other Representatives	Neil Trickett – Wild Discovery at Ribby Hall
Members of the public:	3 members of the public were in attendance.

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.

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 1st April 2016 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

There were no substitute members in attendance at the meeting.

4. Application for Grant of a Zoo Licence

Chris Hambly (Environmental Services Manager) introduced a report detailing an application that had been received for the grant of a Zoo Licence from Wild Discovery at Ribby Hall Village, Wrea Green. An inspection of the proposed Zoo had been undertaken by a zoological expert nominated by the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Licensing Team and the Health and Safety Team.

Mr Neil Trickett, the intended zoo operator, was invited by the Chairman to address the committee whereby he responded in full to queries ranging from staff experience and training, security measures in place, animal welfare, breeding programs and the future vision for the zoo.

Following a show of hands the committee RESOLVED to grant the zoo licence application subject to conditions required by Section 1A of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, and the conditions proposed by the nominated inspector.

5. Licensed Vehicle Exceptional Quality Policy

Mr Hambly (Environmental Services Manager) presented a report that requested the committee consider introducing an Exceptional Quality Vehicle Policy. The current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy imposes a maximum age limit of 12 years on hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The proposed policy would allow vehicles that are over twelve years old to continue to be licensed, provided they meet the additional conditions of the proposed policy.

The committee discussed the policy in detail and following a show of hands RESOLVED to recommend the Exceptional Quality Vehicle Policy for approval by full Council, subject to the addition of an overriding criterion that in order to benefit from the new policy, vehicles will need to undergo and pass an emissions test.

6. Request for Increase in Level of Hackney Carriage Fares

Mr Hambly (Environmental Services Manager) introduced a request that had been received from Whitesides Taxis seeking an increase in the level of hackney carriage fares. As power to amend fares had not been delegated to the committee, any increase would need to be the subject of a recommendation to council. The Committee took into account information about fare levels in other areas and the limited consultation response from the local taxi trade.

Concerns were raised that the requested increase would take the proposed Tariff 1 above the national average with elderly or vulnerable residents that relied on the service being affected the most.

Following a full discussion it was RESOLVED to:

- 1) Refuse the request for an increase in level of hackney carriage fares as being inappropriate at this time.
- 2) Recommend to full Council that the Table of Fares is amended for the purposes of fuel surcharge to refer to the Shell Heyhouses Garage, in place of the Kilnhouse Garage which is no longer trading.
- 3) Recommend to full Council that the responsibility for determining future requests for increases in the level of hackney carriage fares are delegated to the Public Protection Committee.

7. Caravan Licensing – Review of Mobile Home Fee Policy

Michael Duck (Senior Environmental Health Officer) introduced a report that outlined several proposed administrative changes to the Mobile Home Fee Policy. No amendment to the fees charged were proposed.

It was RESOLVED to:

- 1) Recommend to full Council to approve the amendments to the Mobile Home Fee Policy as outlined within the report.
- 2) Recommend to full Council that any future administrative changes to the Mobile Home Fee Policy be delegated under the remit of the Public Protection Committee.

8. Caravan Licensing – Peel Hill Farm

Mr Duck (Environmental Health Officer- Commercial) resented a report relating to Peel Hill Farm caravan site, situated on Preston New Road, Westby with Plumpton. The site was licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 for 18 holiday caravans. An application had been received to amend the licence conditions so as to increase the number of caravans allowed from 18 to 49 and to allow year round holiday use.

Mr Duck took members through the relevant licensing and planning history of the site and explained that the requested changes were consistent with the present planning position.

After a lengthy discussion the committee was minded to accept the proposed changes provided that additional wording was included to reinforce the restriction of the site to holiday use.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1) To amend Condition 1 of the site licence to refer to 49 caravans instead of 18.
- 2) To seek representations from the licence holder on amending Condition 23 of the site licence to read *“Caravans shall be used for human habitation only, with all year round occupation for holiday purposes only and not as a persons permanent, sole or main place of residence. The owners/operators of the caravan site shall maintain an up-to-date register of the names and main address of all owners/occupiers of individual touring caravans, holiday lodges, motorhomes etc on the site. This information shall be made available at all reasonable times to the licensing authority.”*; and
- 3) Subject to no adverse representation being received, to delegate authority to the Director of Resources to make the above amendment to condition 23

9. Caravan Licensing – Thornfield Holiday Camp

Mr Duck (Environmental Health Officer- Commercial) introduced a report relating to Thornfield Holiday Camp, situated on Staining Road, Staining. The site was licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 for 75 holiday caravans. Five of those caravans were allocated as residential use for employees. An application had been received requesting the amendment of several Conditions of the licence, which were now regarded as obsolete.

The committee expressed their appreciation to Mr Duck following words of praise from the applicant for his assistance and expertise.

Taking each request in turn the committee RESOLVED:

- 1) To defer Consideration of Condition 2 until a response had been received from the fire service.
- 2) To delete Condition 15 concerning foul drainage.
- 3) To delete Condition 16 to remove the requirement of communal toilet blocks.
- 4) To amend Condition 17 to read *“Laundry facilities shall be provided in a separate room and be installed with a hot/cold washing machine and dryer.”*
- 5) To amend Condition 25 to read *“Caravans shall not be stationed on the site for the purposes of human habitation except during the period from 1st March to 31st October in any year.”*

10. Caravan Licensing – Moss View Caravan Park

Mr Duck (Environmental Health Officer- Commercial) presented a report relating to Moss View Caravan Park, situated on Bambers Lane, Westby with Plumpton. The site was licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 for 9 pitches for touring caravans and 5 residential use pitches. An application had been received to amend the licence conditions so as to

provide for an additional 8 holiday touring caravan pitches and an additional 10 holiday static caravan pitches.

Mr Duck took members through the relevant licensing and planning history of the site and explained that the requested changes were consistent with the present planning position.

It was RESOLVED 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 32 (thirty-two) and shall be positioned in accordance with the approved layout plan. Seventeen pitches shall be reserved for touring caravans, ten pitches shall be reserved for holiday static caravans and five pitches shall be reserved for residential use, located in the positions shown in the plan.”*

11. Caravan Licensing – Pool Brow Caravan Park

Mr Duck (Environmental Health Officer- Commercial) introduced a report relating to Pool Brow Caravan Park, situated on Pool Foot Lane, Little Singleton. The site was currently licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 for 8 permanent residential and 37 static holiday caravans. An application had been received to remove Condition 1 and 2, relating to the number and types of caravans allowed, to allow unrestricted use of numbers, occupation and allow year round use.

Mr Duck took members through the relevant licensing and planning history of the site and explained that the requested changes were consistent with the present planning position, in that a certificate of lawfulness had been issued covering the *“use of land as a caravan park with unrestricted use in terms of caravan numbers their residential/holiday occupation, and to allow year round use”*.

A letter had been received from a member of the public objecting to the proposed changes to the licence. However, members were satisfied that the changes reflected the present use of the site, as evidenced by the issue of the certificate of lawfulness.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1) To delete Conditions 1 and 2 of the site licence.
- 2) To seek representations from the licence holder on including an additional condition of the site licence to read *“The site owner is required to confirm the actual usage of all the units i.e. holiday or residential on an annual basis, no later than 31st March each year, and to also inform the Council’s rating department when occupation of a residential unit has been taken.”*
- 3) Subject to no adverse representation being received, to delegate authority to the Director of Resources to add the additional condition to the licence.

12. Caravan Licensing – The Conifers

Mr Duck (Environmental Health Officer- Commercial) introduced a report relating to The Conifers, situated on Bambers Lane, Westby with Plumpton. The site was licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 for 12 caravans. An application had been received to amend the licence conditions to increase the number of caravans allowed on the site from 12 to 24.

Mr Duck took members through the relevant licensing and planning history of the site and explained that the requested changes were consistent with the present planning position, including the extension to the area of the site.

It was RESOLVED to amend condition 2 of the licence to refer to 24 caravans instead of 12.

13. Caravan Licensing – Whitmore Farm Caravan Park

Mr Duck (Environmental Health Officer- Commercial) presented a report relating to Whitmore Farm Caravan Park, situated on Bradshaw Lane, Greenhalgh. The site was licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 for 25 touring caravans. An application had been received to amend the licence conditions to increase the number of caravans allowed from 25 to 39.

Mr Duck took members through the relevant licensing and planning history of the site and explained that the requested changes were consistent with the present planning position

It was RESOLVED to amend Condition 1a of the site licence to refer to 39 caravans instead of 25.

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