

# MINUTES

## Public Protection Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 27 September 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Angela Jacques (Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Jan Barker, Keith Beckett ISO, Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Gail Goodman JP.
<b>Other Councillors Present:</b>	None
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambly, Andy Hough, Sharon Wadsworth, Tara Walsh.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	LPJ, MII and 1 other member 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 6 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 19 July 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. Request to Add Additional Conditions to the Zoo Licence for Wild Discovery, Ribby Hall, Wrea Green

Chris Hambly, Environmental Services Manager, and Andy Hough, Licensing Officer, presented a report that detailed the outcome of an inspection, that took place on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 by a zoological expert nominated by the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs together with a member of the Council's licensing team, at Wild Discovery, Ribby Hall, Wrea Green. This was the first inspection of the premises following the grant of the Zoo Licence in July 2016. The Inspectors Report included the inspector's recommendations for additional conditions to be attached to the licence and had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED to attach the inspectors recommended additional conditions, as detailed in the Inspectors Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017, to the current Zoo Licence for Wild Discovery.

5. Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence – LJ

Mr Hambly, Environmental Services Manager, introduced a report detailing an application received from LPJ, 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 for motoring offences and offences involving dishonesty, theft and violence from between 1983 and 1997 and a further single offence in 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 with a persistent record of criminality, where the record suggests a persistent lack of regard for the well-being of others or for their property rights, should normally be refused. LJ 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 and taking into account the applicants age and circumstances at the time of the convictions and that there had been no further convictions in the last fourteen years RESOLVED to deviate from the current policy and to grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence to LJ.

6. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence - MI

*(Having declared an interest in Item 6, Councillor Blackshaw left the meeting)*

The committee considered a complaint that had been made about the conduct of a licenced hackney carriage/private hire driver. Mr Hambly, Environmental Services Manager, provided members with a written statement from the complainant, a written transcript of an interview between licensing officers and the driver in question and two character references that had been provided by MI. There was a brief adjournment for members to read the information put before them.

The committee resumed and Mr Hambly provided a brief introduction before MI was invited to address the committee. 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. It was RESOLVED to issue MI with a warning letter in relation to his unprofessional conduct.

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