

LICENSING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J.M. Charles (Chair)

Councillors (In Person):

H. Jones K. Madge B.D.J. Phillips

Councillors (Virtually):

A. Evans W.T. Evans J.K. Howell D. Jones
M.J.A. Lewis B.A.L. Roberts D.E. Williams

The following Officers were in attendance (In Person):

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager;
A. Eynon, Principal Translator;
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer [Minute Taker];

The following Officers were in attendance (Virtually):

J. Power, Senior Licensing Officer;
R. Griffiths, Licensing Officer;
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen and remotely: 10.00 am - 10.50 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cooper and S. Curry.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interests.

3. MINUTES - 7TH NOVEMBER, 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 7th November, 2022 be signed as a correct record.

4. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE MAXIMUM TABLE OF FARES

Further to minute 6 of the meeting held on the 11th October 2022 the Senior Licensing Officer advised the Committee that three objections had been received to the proposed Hackney Carriage Maximum table of fares detailed in the circulated report. Whilst objections related in the main to the extent of the proposed increases the Committee was advised that taxi firms were not bound to charge the maximum fares listed.

A representative from the Hackney Association Carmarthenshire who was present in the meeting spoke in support of the maximum fares proposed.

In response to a concern over the limited number of taxi firms operating in some rural areas the Committee was advised that customers could still negotiate fares in advance.

RESOLVED to confirm the proposed Hackney Carriage Maximum table of fares table of fares detailed in the report without modification with effect from 20th January 2023.

5. PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

The Committee considered an application from Mr. Robert Ian Owen of Celtic Executive Travel, 8 Ger-Y-Maes, Llanelli, for an exemption from conditions 5a and 5b of the Council's Licence Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles for his Private Hire Vehicle PH 502 a MERCEDES BENZ registration number WA72 PCX.

It was reported that as it was Mr. Owen's intention to operate this vehicle for Executive Hire, Airport/Sea Port work only, that he be granted an exemption from Condition 5a and 5b of the Council's Licence Conditions, namely that he be not required to display door stickers and a licence plate on the rear bumper of his Vehicle.

The Committee was advised that should it agree to grant Mr. Owen an exemption, the following conditions would be attached to the Licence:-

- That the licensed Mercedes Benz PH 502 registration number WA72 PCX be exempt from licence conditions 5a and 5b whilst being used for executive hire purposes as outlined in the application by Mr. Owen;
- That, should the vehicle be used for Private Hire other than the executive hire type work listed, then the applicant shall immediately notify the Licensing Authority and the exemption shall cease in relation to such hiring;
- That the vehicle displays an identification disc on the front and rear windcreens, as specified by the Licensing Authority.

RESOLVED that the application submitted by Mr. Robert Ian Owen for an exemption from Conditions 5a and 5b of the Council's Licence Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles for his Mercedes Benz PH 502 registration number WA72 PCX be granted.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as the reports contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

7. MR. STEVE ANTHONY WILLIAMS APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DUAL DRIVERS LICENCE

The Committee considered an application from Mr. Steve Anthony Williams of 110 High Street, Ammanford to renew his hackney carriage/private hire dual drivers licence.

The Committee interviewed Mr. Williams with regard to his application and issues raised by the Senior Licencing Officer.

The Senior Licensing Officer recommended that Mr. Williams's application be granted with a warning as to his future conduct.

The Committee thereupon

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to retire into private session in order to receive legal advice pursuant to Paragraph 16 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Following the adjournment the Committee reconvened to advise of its decision.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the application submitted by Mr. Steve Anthony Williams for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Dual Driver's Licence be granted with a warning as to his future conduct.

Reason

On the evidence presented the Committee was satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

8. MR. DAVID GEORGE HOPKINS HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DUAL DRIVERS LICENCE

The Committee was informed that Mr. David George Hopkins of 4 Dolau Bran, Llandovery, was a licensed hackney carriage/private hire dual driver with this Authority.

The Senior Licensing Officer advised that Mr. Hopkins was unable to be present at the meeting but had requested that the Committee consider his case in his absence.

The Committee was informed of the issues that had arisen in respect of Mr. Hopkins's licence.

The Senior Licensing Officer recommended that Mr. Hopkins's licence be revoked.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that, in line with the Officer's recommendations, Mr. David George Hopkins's Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Dual Drivers Licence be revoked.

Reason:

On the evidence presented, the Committee was satisfied that there was reasonable cause to revoke the licence.

9. MR. HYWEL DOUGLAS PRICE THOMAS APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DUAL DRIVERS LICENCE

The Senior Licensing Officer informed the Committee that a request had been received from the solicitor representing Mr. Hywel Douglas Price Thomas to defer consideration of Mr. Thomas's application.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that consideration of the application submitted by Mr. Hywel Douglas Price Thomas be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

CHAIR

DATE