



EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Wednesday, 21st January 2015 at 9.33am.

P R E S E N T

Councillor Michael Allan (Chairman)
Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith
Councillor Sue Austen
Councillor Colin Fordham
Councillor Lindsey Harris
Councillor Chris Morris
Councillor Tony Parramint
Councillor Sue Willows

OFFICERS

Lin Bagwell – Licensing Officer (Enforcement)
Maggie Camp – Solicitor
Stephen Carrington – Licensing Officer (Enforcement)
Liz Knox – Environmental Services Manager
Janis Murfet – Democratic Services Officer

IN ATTENDANCE

Matt Cheeseman – Traffic Management, Anglian Water
Jenny Cole – Proprietor, Taxi Trade
Martin Lane – Proprietor, Taxi Trade,
Dale Morley – Anglian Water
Andy Moss – Site Agent, Claret Civil Engineering Ltd
Sharon Piper – Street Management, Cambridgeshire County Council
Victoria Ray – Anglian Water
Phil Sharpe – Highways Inspector of Works, Cambridgeshire County Council

21. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared a personal interest: Councillors Allan, Ambrose Smith, Morris, Parramint and Willows, each being a member of the South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association (SECCA).

Councillor Morris also declared that he was the Treasurer for SECCA.

23. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 19th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Chairman said that as this was the first meeting of the Committee in 2015, he wished everybody a Happy New Year.
- The Chairman welcomed Sharon Piper, Andy Moss and Phil Sharpe to the meeting.
- The Chairman referred to an exempt report which was to be considered at the meeting of the Regulatory & Support Services Committee on 22nd January 2015.

25. **THE SUSPENSION AND SETTING UP OF A TEMPORARY TAXI RANK ON MARKET STREET, ELY.**

The Committee considered a report, (P174) previously circulated, which informed Members of the suspension and setting up of a temporary taxi rank on Market Street, Ely. Appended to the report was a site plan of the affected area.

Stephen Carrington, Licensing Officer, introduced his report by giving Members a brief summary of the background to the issue.

In October 2014, the Site Agent for Claret Civil Engineering Ltd contacted the Council's Licensing Department to advise that pre-planned essential repair works to the main sewerage system on Market Street, Ely, would need to be carried out early in 2015. The work, on behalf of Anglian Water, would be opposite the taxi rank and would therefore necessitate its closure for the duration of the work.

A site meeting took place on 27th November 2014, to discuss and outline the works and relocation of the taxi rank. Mr Moss explained the extent of the work, saying that the excavation would extend from the pavement to the side of No 28 Market Street (Ely Tandoori) into Market Street opposite the current taxi rank. The taxi rank would have to be closed in order to accommodate the diverted traffic around the excavation and a number of disabled and parking bays would also need to be closed. It was not known how long the work would take, but it was estimated that it could be somewhere between 6 and 8 weeks.

If it went beyond this, an extension of the Temporary Traffic Order would be sought.

The location of a temporary taxi rank was agreed by all parties. It was to extend from No 68 to No 70 Market Street (Ely Museum to the China Inn Chinese restaurant) and would consist of 6 parking spaces for the use of Hackney Carriages.

At a further meeting at the Council Offices in December 2014, Mr Moss had advised that an Opening Notice and a Temporary Traffic Order made under a Traffic Management Order had been submitted to County Highways, indicating that works would commence on Market Street on 23rd March and run until 1st May 2015. Cambridgeshire County Highways would place notices in the local press to give advance warning of the start of the works and they would also notify Street Works and the Police. Anglian Water might also advertise the proposed works.

With regard to forewarning members of the public, Claret Civil Engineering Ltd would erect signs in Newnham Street and Market Street 11 days prior to the start of the works. Letters would be posted out to the local businesses involved 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the works, and there would be signage regarding the temporary closure of the current taxi rank and the new temporary taxi rank.

The Licensing Officer concluded by informing Members that the taxi trade, representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Street Works, Anglian Water, Claret Civil Engineering Ltd, and Ely Police had all been invited to attend today's meeting of the Licensing Committee.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Moss, Site Agent for Claret Civil Engineering Ltd, addressed the Committee. He said there was a problem with the main sewerage system which would require excavation of the carriageway and footpath in Market Street to a depth of 5 metres. The traffic management measures had been put in place and the necessary steps taken to ensure that everyone who would be affected had been made aware of the forthcoming works.

It was difficult to put a timescale on how long the work might take because he was aware that there were also gas and electric mains there. Work would commence on 23rd March for approximately 6 weeks, and although the Temporary Traffic Order was for a period of 6 weeks, if any problems were encountered, it might run for longer. His main concern was that the work was carried out as safely as possible and with minimum impact.

Mr Moss then responded to comments and questions from Members.

Councillor Ambrose Smith asked whether the work would be carried out throughout the 7 days of the week in order to mitigate the disruption. Mr Moss confirmed that it would be; he said the men usually worked from 7.00am to 4.00pm, but they might possibly work longer hours.

Councillor Fordham wished to know exactly where the excavations would be, as he had concerns about the buses being able to manoeuvre around the corner into Market Street. Mr Moss replied that they would be outside the jewellers, directly in front of the access road on the kerb line. Vehicles coming round the corner would move over to the left of Market Street, and while the work was going on, the situation would be constantly monitored. Mr Cheeseman added that a computer programme had been used to simulate the flow of traffic in the area of works, and it was not anticipated that there would be any problems. He thought that moving the parking bays further down the road was a better solution.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr Sharpe confirmed that he was happy and confident with the arrangements for the works and traffic management.

Councillor Ambrose Smith commented that she had a parking space to the rear of Market Street and lorries delivering to the Thingamebobs shop often parked badly, thereby causing blockages and tailbacks. She asked if drivers would be requested to park properly and suggested that it would be prudent to speak to the proprietors of the shop about this. Mr Carrington reminded her that this had been taken into account and all the businesses would be receiving a letter.

The Chairman next asked Ms Piper, Mr Morley and Ms Ray if they were content with the arrangements and each confirmed that they were happy with what had been proposed.

Councillor Parramint noted that the available disabled parking spaces and some of the normal ones were to be removed for the duration of the works, and he asked if they would be reinstated elsewhere. Mr Moss said that he did not think so; he could only do so much because the area was so tight.

On the issue of disabled parking, Councillor Austen asked if it would be possible to have some of the normal spaces temporarily designated as disabled, as a special measure. There were not enough spaces in Newnham Street and the next nearest ones were in the Waitrose car park. Losing the spaces in Market Street would cause problems.

Councillor Ambrose Smith said she was familiar with this area and the car park behind Market Street was frequently empty. She suggested that the owners of the spaces be approached to see if they would allow temporary parking for 2 or 3 cars. Mr Moss replied that he had not been aware of this and would definitely investigate.

The Chairman next asked the members of the taxi trade for their opinion. Mr Lane believed that it was making the best of a bad job. Although one space would be gained, there were not enough spaces anyway and this was the best that could be done. However, he did have concerns about safety. The excavations would be in an area that was notorious for fights and arguments

and he sought reassurance that the barriers around the works would be robust enough to withstand anyone being pushed or falling against them. Mr Moss stated that there were strict rules about the type of barriers to be used, and he was confident that the ones being put in place would be okay.

Mrs Cole raised the point that passengers would be getting in and out of taxis in the middle of the road, and if passengers were disabled, this would cause hold ups. Ms Bagwell thought this was only likely to happen if several people were sitting in the back of the vehicle. Councillor Parramint believed this was likely to be the exception rather than the rule and he did not foresee any problems.

Mr Moss reiterated that the works would be constantly monitored and reviewed and there would be people on site to try and ensure that disruption was kept to a minimum. Mr Carrington added that the Police would also help to manage the situation by keeping an eye on Market Street.

There being no further comments,

It was resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

26. **FORWARD AGENDA PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Agenda Plan, and noted that the meeting scheduled for 11th February 2015 was to be cancelled due to lack of business.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Environmental Services Manager confirmed that there would not be any Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee hearings on that date.

It was resolved:

That the Forward Agenda Plan be noted.

27. **TAXI LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

The Committee received the record of the meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee held on 19th November 2014.

It was resolved:

That the record of the meeting held on 19th November 2014 be received and noted.

28. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS**

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no. 10 because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1, 2 and 7 Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as Amended).

29. **TAXI LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – EXEMPT MINUTES**

The Committee received the Exempt record of the meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee held on 19th November 2014.

It was resolved:

That the Exempt record of the meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee held on 19th November 2014 be received and noted.

The meeting closed at 10.20am.