

AGENDA ITEM NO. X

A record of the meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, on Wednesday 15TH April 2015 at 12:10am

P R E S E N T

Councillor Allen Alderson
Councillor Sue Austen (Reserve Member)
Councillor Lindsey Harris
Councillor Andy Wright

OFFICERS

Lin Bagwell – Licensing Officer (Enforcement)
Maggie Camp – Solicitor
Liz Knox – Environmental Services Manager
Adrian Scaites-Stokes – Democratic Services Officer

The Sub-Committee noted the absence of the Licence Holder but agreed to proceed in his absence.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was resolved:

That Councillor Andy Wright be elected as Chairman for the duration of the Sub-Committee Hearing.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of Item No 5 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 & 7 Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as Amended).

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976,
PART II – REVIEW OF A JOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND
PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE.**

The Sub-Committee received a report, reference P238 previously circulated, that considered whether the Licence Holder was a fit and proper person to hold such licences.

The Chairman queried whether the agenda papers had been sent to Mr Medcalf, the Licence Holder, and the Licensing Officer (Enforcement) confirmed they had been received as the Licence Holder had acknowledged this.

The Licensing Officer (Enforcement) advised the Sub-Committee of the background to this matter including the breach of conditions. A previous Sub-Committee hearing in February 2014 had renewed Mr Medcalf's licence but with a strong warning as to his future conduct.

The Solicitor questioned the Licensing Officer (Enforcement) for clarification.

The Licensing Officer (Enforcement) then tabled some correspondence from Mr Medcalf. The Chairman asked whether the Sub-Committee were happy to accept these additional papers and it was agreed to accept them. The Chairman then read the document out loud.

The Sub-Committee adjourned at this point, 12:18am.

The Sub-Committee reconvened at 12:51am.

The Solicitor read out the decision of the Sub-Committee:

Decision

Given the information contained in the Committee Report, Taxi Licensing Sub Committee Members were minded to suspend the Joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence for a period of 6 months from the date of the Sub Committee.

Reasons for the Decision

Members noted a further disregard of the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Conditions despite the strong warning given by Members at the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee in February 2014.

In addition, Mr Medcalf's non attendance at the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee did not enable Members to consider any representations he may have wished to make.

Mr Medcalf has the right to appeal this decision to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of receipt of the decision letter.

The meeting concluded at 12:53am.