

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 18 February 2021 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors C Ahern (Convener), D Illingworth (Vice-Convener), K Baird, R Brock, A Coates, R McCall (up to and including Item P2), J Rebbeck, F Sarwar, C Stewart and R Watters (substituting for Councillor M Williamson).

In Attendance: PC L Gregge, Inspector J Allen (up to and including Item P2) and PC S Birrell (for Item P2 only) (all Police Scotland); M McLaren, D Gilkison, S Michie, A Taylor and A Brown (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Parrott, W Robertson and M Williamson.

Councillor C Ahern (Convener), Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor R Watters declared a non-financial interest in item P1.

3. MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee of 19 November 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. AMENDMENT TO TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' KNOWLEDGE TEST LICENSING CONDITION

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/19) seeking approval of a further amendment required to be made to the licensing condition which requires applicants for Private Hire Car Drivers' and Taxi Car Drivers' licences to pass a knowledge test due to the ongoing restrictions in place during the coronavirus pandemic.

Resolved:

The amendment to Condition One of the Standard Conditions for Taxi and Private Hire Drivers' Licence as detailed in Report 21/19, be approved.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.

HAVING DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, COUNCILLOR R WATTERS LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

P1. SUSPENSION OF SECOND-HAND DEALER LICENCE – SD377

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/20) regarding Suspension of Second-Hand Dealer Licence No. SD377.

The licence holder was in attendance.

The representatives of Police Scotland addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions. The licence holder also addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED.

Resolved:

Second-Hand Dealer Licence No. SD377 be not suspended.

COUNCILLOR WATTERS REJOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

PC S BIRRELL JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

P2. SUSPENSION OF SECOND-HAND DEALER LICENCE – SD424

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/21) regarding Suspension of Second-Hand Dealer Licence No. SD424.

The licence holder and his agent were both in attendance.

The representatives of Police Scotland addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions. The licence holder also addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED.

Resolved:

Consideration of Suspension of Second-Hand Dealer Licence No SD424 be deferred to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee to be held as soon as possible following the outcome of any court appearance by the licence holder.

INSPECTOR J ALLEN, PC S BIRRELL AND COUNCILLOR MCCALL ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THIS POINT.

P4. GRANT OF TAXI / PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVERS' LICENCE – TD1998

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/23) regarding Grant of Taxi / Private Hire Car Drivers' Licence No. TD1998.

The applicant was in attendance.

The representative of Police Scotland addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions. The licence holder also addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED.

Resolved:

Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence No. TD1998 be not granted.

THERE FOLLOWED A 5 MINUTE RECESS, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED at 11.20AM

P3. SUSPENSION OF TAXI / PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVERS' LICENCE – TD958

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/21) regarding Suspension of Taxi / Private Hire Car Drivers' Licence No. TD958.

The licence holder was not in attendance. S Michie advised that despite repeated attempts she had been unable to make contact with the licence holder in advance of the meeting.

The representative of Police Scotland addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED.

Resolved:

Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence TD958 be suspended with effect from 18 February 2021 for the duration of the licence on the grounds that the licence holder is no longer a fit and proper person to be the holder of the licence

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