

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON FRIDAY 23 JANUARY
2015, AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Jones (Chairman).
Councillors M McMullen and P Ruffles.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors P Ballam and R Beeching.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Robin Clark	- Licensing Enforcement and Community Safety Manager
Myles Hancock	- Licensing Officer
Peter Mannings	- Democratic Services Officer
George Robertson	- Legal Services Manager

18 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor P Ruffles and seconded by Councillor M McMullen that Councillor J Jones be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

RESOLVED – that Councillor J Jones be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

19 MINUTES – 3 OCTOBER AND 14 OCTOBER 2014

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meetings held on 3 and 14 October 2014 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Sub-Committee passed a resolution pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, to exclude the press and public during consideration of the business referred to in Minute 21 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

21 APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE –
APPLICANT WITH UNSPENT CONVICTIONS –
APPLICATION NUMBER 026702

The Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed. All those present were introduced. The applicant agreed that Councillors P Ballam, R Beeching and a Licensing Officer in training could remain in the room as observers.

The Licensing Enforcement and Community Safety Manager apologised that paragraph 2.1 of the report submitted, incorrectly stated that the application had a conviction when this should have read a police caution. Members were advised that the application was for a private hire driver's licence and, if approved, the applicant could apply for a dual driver's licence on completion of the knowledge test.

The Sub-Committee was advised of the applicant's background leading to him becoming a UK passport holder in 2009. The Licensing Enforcement and Community Safety Manager summarised the nature of the police caution received by the applicant in 2010.

The applicant provided detailed information regarding the circumstances that led to the police caution. The applicant advised that he was of good character and his friend confirmed this. The friend also advised the Sub-Committee that the applicant respected the law and people.

The friend advised that the applicant's wife and child were in Afghanistan and the criteria to be demonstrated before he would be permitted to bring his family to the UK. The applicant explained that he had lost his father, a brother and sister in a previous conflict between Afghanistan and Russia.

Councillor P Ruffles asked the applicant why the completed application form had not made reference to the police caution. The applicant confirmed that his English was poor and he had not understood the form and his friend had not read the form correctly.

In response to a query from Councillor J Jones regarding the applicant's previous employment, the applicant confirmed that he had worked as a pizza delivery driver in London and was currently employed in this capacity in Bishop's Stortford.

In reply to a question from Councillor M McMullen, the applicant confirmed that he had received a job offer from Associated Taxis in Bishop's Stortford. The Licensing Enforcement and Community Safety Manager confirmed that Associated Taxis had written to Officers confirming that a full time job offer had been made to the applicant.

At the conclusion of the representations, the Sub-Committee withdrew with the Legal Services Manager and the Democratic Services Officer to consider the evidence.

Following this they returned, and the Chairman announced that the Sub-Committee had listened to all the comments made and had decided to approve the application for a private hire driver's licence.

The applicant was reminded that he was being trusted to be a 'fit and proper' person in his dealings with the public and he needed to be more careful and understand the importance of completing application forms in future.

RESOLVED – that for the reasons now detailed,
the application for a private hire driver’s licence be
approved.

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm

Chairman
Date