

		MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2010, AT 2.00 PM
	<u>PRESENT:</u>	
		Councillors P R Ballam, K A Barnes and J Demonti.
	<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	
		Councillors M P A McMullen and P A Ruffles.
	<u>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	Linda Bevan, Paul Newman, George Robertson

<u>APPLICATION FOR STAGE OF TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE</u>

	Mr J	- Applicant
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36 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor J Demonti and seconded by Councillor P R Ballam that Councillor K A Barnes be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

RESOLVED - that Councillor K A Barnes be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee for the meeting.

37 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 38 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.

38 CONSIDERATION OF STAGE OF APPLICATION FOR
PRIVATE HIRE TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR J

The Chairman outlined the procedure to be followed during consideration of the application. Everyone present for it was introduced. He also explained that the Sub-Committee had excluded the press and public but Members of the Licensing Committee were present. On being asked, the applicant agreed that the Members should be allowed to stay.

The Interim Licensing Manager explained that the applicant had two unspent convictions relating to a serious assault, and a number of spent convictions which the Sub-Committee should also consider when deciding if the application should proceed to the next stage. He circulated the applicant's Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) record and application form. The applicant had given an explanation of the circumstances of the more recent offences as detailed in the agenda. He had asked that the Sub-Committee consider the circumstances that provoked the assault.

The applicant said he had been made redundant, and the owner of a local taxi firm, who he had known for a number of years, had offered him a job as a taxi driver if he obtained his licence. He needed the job to earn a living and pay his mortgage. He said he had worked as a milkman before the offence, dealing with the public regularly. More recently he had worked as a delivery driver in London. This involved meeting the public on a daily basis and dealing with stressful city traffic. He had also been responsible for large amounts of money in this job. He would be working during the day as a private hire vehicle driver rather than plying for hire late at night. He said he had attended anger management training because of his convictions.

The applicant, Councillors McMullen and Ruffles and the Interim Licensing Manager left the Chamber during the Sub-Committee's consideration of the representations.

Following this, they returned and the Chairman announced the decision of the Sub-Committee as detailed below.

RESOLVED - that the application be allowed to proceed to the next stage subject to the following comments from the Sub-Committee:

The applicant be informed that the Sub-Committee was concerned about the seriousness of the offence but was prepared to trust the applicant in the knowledge that he had received anger management training. It was pointed out that to allow the applicant to proceed does not prevent any licence that is granted from being suspended or revoked if new evidence comes to light that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be a taxi driver.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm

Chairman
Date