

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (GENERAL PURPOSES) - 17 JUNE
2024

SUBMITTED TO THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING -
<DATE>

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

Present

Cllr Jacquie Keen (Chair)
Cllr Michaela Wicks (Vice Chair)
Cllr Michael Goodridge

Cllr David Munro
Cllr John Robini

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Agenda item 1.)

There were no apologies submitted for this meeting.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 2.)

There were no declarations submitted for this meeting.

41. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda item 3.)

The Chair advised that the meeting would be held in exempt session and members of the Public and Press were excluded.

42. APPLICATION FOR A NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE (Agenda item 4.)

The Committee considered the report, and at the hearing heard further from the driver.

He acknowledged that he had been provided with a copy of the report in advance of the hearing.

The Committee noted his explanations around the incidents that occurred in January 2023. The driver indicated that he felt that the incidents reported had all been unfounded. With regards to the incident on 12 January 2023, where he was accused of having fake badges, it was explained he was, at that time, a licensed driver and did not have fake plates. As for the arrest for domestic violence the driver explained this was a misunderstanding between himself, his wife and his mother-in-law and was dismissed by the police once thoroughly investigated and he denied any wrongdoing.

The Committee also noted that the incidence where he was accused by a traffic warden of parking on double yellow lines was heard by Guildford

Borough Council and they had accepted your account. It was felt that following investigation of the work log, it was more likely than not that he had not stayed for more than a couple of minutes whilst assisting an elderly lady who had been his fare.

With regards to the reports of the vehicle not displaying plates the driver explained that he had been forced to remove them overnight as they were magnetic and there had been instances where the plates were removed by people unknown and thrown into bushes. You accepted that you had some difficulties with your neighbour which may have arisen initially in relation to parking issues.

The Committee felt concerned about the number of incidents that occurred in a short space of time but appreciated that many had been disputed and no significant evidence provided in support or against.

The committee also carefully considered the character references which had been provided in support of the case.

Decision

The Committee carefully deliberated the matter and considered the Licensing Objectives in particular the safety of our residents. The Committee felt that, on the balance of probability, they were satisfied that he was a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Licence.

The Committee reiterated that they did not want to see him return to a hearing in the future and ask that, if he felt he needed to remove his plate to maintain its safety, to display it in the vehicle overnight.

The Committee therefore **GRANTED** the application.

43. LEGAL ADVICE (Agenda item 5.)

Legal advice was sought during deliberations.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.46 am

Chairman