

Medway Council
Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee of Licensing and
Safety Committee

Friday, 22 January 2016

2.30pm to 3.15pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Mrs Diane Chambers (Chairman), Carr (Vice-Chairman), Bhutia, Godwin, Fearn and McDonald

In Attendance: Mr K, Appellant
Mr P, Appellant's representative
Rebecca Channon, Lawyer
Mandy Francis, Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer
Stephen Platt, Democratic Services Officer

687 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kemp.

688 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 11 September 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

689 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

690 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

691 Exclusion of the press and public

The press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 6 because consideration of this matter in public would disclose information falling within paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as specified in agenda item 5 (Exclusion of Press and Public) and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Sub-Committee considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

692 Appeal against the refusal of an application for a private hire driver licence

Discussion:

The Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer asked the Sub-Committee to consider Mr K's appeal against the decision to refuse his application for a Private Hire Driver Licence.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Licensing Unit had received an application from Mr K for a Private Hire Driver Licence and that no criminal convictions were declared on the form or on the statutory declaration. As part of the application process, the Council had obtained disclosures from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) which detailed a number of convictions prior to 1995.

In presenting her report, the Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer highlighted the very high standard that Medway Council expected from its licenced drivers. She referred Members to the full details of Mr K's offences which were set out in the report. Mr P spoke on behalf of Mr K to make representations in mitigation and Mr K responded to questions from the Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer and the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee then questioned the Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer.

Both parties to the hearing left the room and the Sub-Committee considered the matter taking into account all written representations and those made at the hearing by the Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer and by Mr K and Mr P.

Decision:

Mr K was advised that, after careful consideration, the Sub-Committee had decided to grant him a Private Hire Driver Licence for home to school transport, in view of his exemplary behaviour over the past 20 years.

Licensing Sub-Committee of Licensing and Safety Committee, 22 January 2016

Chairman

Date:

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