

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
2 NOVEMBER 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 2nd November 2017

PRESENT: **Councillor Tony Sharps (Chairman)**

Councillors: Adele Davies-Cooke and Mike Reece

OFFICERS OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Solicitor (Mr Tim Dillon), Licensing Team Leader (Gemma Potter) and Team Leader – Democratic Services (Nicola Gittins)

APOLOGIES

None.

Applicant and friend.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they were considered to contain exempt information by virtue of paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION

The Chairman welcomed the applicant and his representative. He introduced the panel members and explained the procedure for the hearing, including how the application would be determined.

3. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE / HACKNEY CARRIAGE (JOINT) DRIVER LICENCE

The Licensing Team Leader presented the report to consider an application for a Private Hire/Hackney Carriage (Joint) Driver Licence.

The Chairman invited the applicant to make representations and to give a full explanation of his previous convictions detailed on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal records disclosure.

The applicant provided details of the background which led to the offences that had taken place as outlined in the DBS to which he regretted. He confirmed

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that he had attended a relevant course for his DR10 offence which had reduced his initial 18 month driving ban.

In response to questions from the panel, the applicant provided clarification on various aspects of his convictions including details of his personal life which included how often he looked after his child on a weekly basis. He apologised sincerely for the irresponsible mistakes and the incorrect judgements he had made on both occasions. In responding to further questions he said he considered himself to be a fit and proper person.

The Solicitor asked further questions in relation to the incidents outlined in the DBS disclosure, including why only a caution was given for the possession of drugs offence. The applicant explained that it was as he had not been in trouble previously. He confirmed that he did not have any problems with either alcohol or drugs.

In conclusion, the applicant added that since the last incident he had turned his life around for the sake of himself and his child and he had been offered a full time job with a taxi firm which would provide a great opportunity for him to make a better life for them both.

The Licensing Team Leader read out two personal references that had been received for the applicant.

When the Chairman was satisfied that all relevant questions had been raised, he requested that the applicant, his representative and the Licensing Team Leader leave the meeting whilst the panel reached a decision.

3.1 Determination of the Application

In determining the application, the panel considered the Council's guidance on the treatment of convictions which was appended to the report. The panel considered the circumstances involved in each case and felt that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire/Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers Licence.

The Licensing Team Leader and the applicant were invited to return so that the meeting could be reconvened.

3.2 Decision

The Chairman advised that the panel had considered the representations made by all parties and they agreed to grant the application.

RESOLVED:

That the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire/ Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and that the Licence be granted.

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(The meeting started at 11.00 a.m. and ended at 11.57 a.m.)

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