

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2013 at 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; and Councillors Blackwood, Hughes and Turner.

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

ATTENDING: Chief Governance Officer; Licensing Co-ordinator; Senior Solicitor (F Kobiela); and Committee Officer (A Sobieraj).

CL33. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors McNally and Ritchie.

CL34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

CL35. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the said Act.

CL36. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TAXI DRIVER LICENCE

The applicant, Mr R, was not in attendance. The Licensing Co-ordinator advised that the applicant was no longer interested in pursuing the application.

NOTED that the applicant had failed to sit the Council's taxi knowledge test on four separate occasions. **AGREED** therefore, to **REFUSE** the application on the basis that the applicant had not satisfied the authority that he had adequate knowledge of the matters referred to therein, conform to section 13(5) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Baillie Paterson entered the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

CL37. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TAXI DRIVER LICENCE

The applicant, Mr G, was not in attendance. The Licensing Co-ordinator advised that the applicant had not contacted the Licensing Section to intimate that he would not be present.

AGREED to **CONTINUE** consideration of the matter until later on the agenda to await the applicant's arrival or the formal intimation of his absence.

CL38. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TAXI DRIVER LICENCE

The applicant, Mr McA, was not in attendance. The Licensing Co-ordinator advised that the applicant had contacted the Licensing Section to intimate that he had been successful in obtaining employment on the Monday of that week and considered that it was inappropriate to request time off so early into his employment. He indicated however that he still wished to pursue a career as a taxi driver and therefore requested that either the Committee consider the application in his absence or continue consideration to a future meeting to allow him to be present.

AGREED to **CONTINUE** consideration of the matter until later on the agenda.

CL39. APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A TAXI DRIVER LICENCE

The applicant, Mr S, entered the meeting.

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 June 2013 by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the renewal of a taxi driver licence (a) advising of the background to the application; (b) detailing the consultations undertaken and the responses received, and (c) detailing the applicant's record.

The applicant, Mr S, spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

AGREED to **RENEW** the taxi driver licence for a period of one year with a warning letter detailing the standards expected of taxi drivers and subject to the standard conditions.

CL40. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW SKIN PIERCING AND TATTOOING LICENCE

The applicant's company Directors, Ms H and Ms G, and Mr Oliver, Food and Safety Co-ordinator, Falkirk Council, all entered the meeting.

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee held on 5 June 2013 (Paragraph CL33 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 June 2013 by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the grant of a new skin piercing and tattooing licence (a) advising of the background to the application; (b) outlining the licensing conditions; (c) detailing the consultations undertaken and responses received; (d) summarising the experience and training of the proposed tattooist, and (e) attaching as an appendix, a copy of a Report submitted to the Civic Licensing Committee on 5 June 2013. The application had been continued to a future meeting to enable either or both of the applicant Directors to be present.

Ms H and Ms G spoke in support of the application.

Mr Oliver, Food and Safety Co-ordinator, Falkirk Council spoke in relation to the application.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

AGREED to **GRANT** the skin piercing and tattooing licence for a period of one year subject to the standard conditions.

CL41. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TAXI DRIVER LICENCE (CONTINUED)

Having heard from the Licensing Co-ordinator, that the applicant had still not arrived or contacted the Licensing section, the Committee determined to consider the application in the applicant's absence.

With reference to agenda item (CL37), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 June 2013 by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the grant of a new taxi driver licence (a) advising of the background to the application, and (b) detailing the consultations undertaken and the responses received.

AGREED to **REFUSE** the application on the basis that the applicant had failed to satisfy the authority that he had adequate knowledge of the area to which the licence relates, the layout of roads in that area and such other matters relating to the operation of a taxi as the authority considers desirable, conform to section 13(5) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

CL42. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TAXI DRIVER LICENCE (CONTINUED)

Having heard from the Licensing Co-ordinator, the Committee agreed to consider the application in the applicant's absence due to its routine nature.

With reference to agenda item (CL38), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 20 June 2013 by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the grant of a new taxi driver licence (a) advising of the background to the application; (b) detailing the consultations undertaken and the responses received, and (c) detailing the applicant's record.

AGREED:-

- (1) that the applicant be given a final opportunity to take and pass the knowledge test;
- (2) that should the applicant fail the knowledge test, or does not attend to sit the test, to authorise the Chief Governance Officer to refuse the application without further reference to Committee; and
- (3) that should the applicant pass the knowledge test, the application should be further considered at a future meeting of the Committee.