



Lewes District Council

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Licensing Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held in the **Telscombe Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Friday, 30 August 2013** at 11.30am

Present:

Councillor J Stockdale (Chair on election)
Councillors S J Gauntlett and J M Harrison-Hicks

Officers Present:

Ms A Blanshard, Committee Officer
Mr R Clark, Licensing Officer
Ms J Fletcher, Solicitor
Ms M Hawes, Licensing Officer
Mr I Kedge, Head of Environmental Health
Ms S Lindsey, Licensing Officer

	Minutes	Action
1	Election of Chair of the Committee <u>Resolved:</u> 1.1 That Councillor J Stockdale be elected Chair of the Committee for this meeting.	
2	Exclusion of the Public and Press <u>Resolved:</u> 2.1 That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public and press be excluded from the hearing as there was likely to be disclosures of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.	
3	Determination of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence Application The Chair of the Committee welcomed all parties to the hearing. Those attending introduced themselves and the Council's standard procedure for Hackney Carriage licensing hearings was read out to all parties present.	

The Committee considered Report No 138/13 relating to an application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence. The Applicant attended the meeting to present his application. During the hearing, it was noted that there had been an error in the numbering of the report, all parties agreed to identify paragraphs by their content rather than by their number to ensure that it was clear what text was being referred to.

The Head of Environmental Health presented the Report to the Committee. He drew the Committee's attention to the salient points of the Report including the Applicant's history and previous appearances before the Licensing Committee. He closed his presentation by highlighting the importance of public safety within the Council's Licensing responsibilities and the need for the Committee to apply the local test to ascertain whether they believed the Applicant to be a "fit and proper" person to hold a Hackney Carriage Licence.

The Applicant presented his case to the Committee explaining that his time as a taxi driver was the happiest of his working life. He also explained that he had taken an extended driving test and continued to drive daily. He explained that he drove previous customers to airports and schools for petrol money when they asked him to.

At the end of the hearing the Committee considered the case in private and the applicant was informed of the Committee's decision immediately following its decision.

Resolved:

- 3.1 That the application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence referred to in Report No 138/13 be refused.

The meeting ended at 12.12pm

J Stockdale
Chair