



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **General Licensing Committee**

Council Chamber, Guildhall, Swansea

Friday, 9 February 2018 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Councillor P M Matthews (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

C Anderson  
S J Gallagher  
B J Rowlands

**Councillor(s)**

J P Curtice  
P Lloyd  
L V Walton

**Councillor(s)**

P Downing  
H M Morris

**Officer(s)**

Lynda Anthony  
Kath Thomas  
Lyndsay Thomas  
Samantha Woon

Divisional Officer, Licensing, Food and Safety  
Licensing Officer  
Senior Lawyer  
Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): V M Evans, C L Philpott and L G Thomas

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**82 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interest.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

**83 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the General Licensing Committee held on 12 January, 2018, be agreed as a correct record.

**84 Request for Exemption from Displaying Door Decals - Restricted Private Hire Vehicle.**

The Divisional Officer, Licensing, Food & Safety, stated that Mr Lang had notified the Licensing Division stating that he was unable to attend the meeting of the General Licensing Committee and wished for his request for Exemption from displaying door decals on his restricted private hire vehicle to be considered in his absence or if this was not possible for his request to be deferred due to his work commitments and the short notice which he received for this meeting.

In response to Member questions, the Divisional Officer, Licensing, Food & Safety confirmed that a notification letter had been despatched, via first class mail, on Friday, 2 February 2018 and that Mr Lang had been verbally informed prior to this date of his requirement to attend.

The Committee resolved to consider the matter in Mr Lang's absence.

The Divisional Officer, Licensing, Food & Safety, reported that Mr Lang submitted a request, on 22 December 2017, from displaying door stickers on his restricted private hire vehicle RV 293. The reasons for the request were that the only jobs which the vehicle would be used for were weddings, executive hire and airports and by not displaying the door stickers the vehicle would look less like a taxi and more appealing to executive clients. The vehicle would not be used for school runs.

Members noted the current condition in respect of restricted private hire vehicles to display licence plates and door stickers.

Members asked questions of the Officer who responded accordingly.

**Resolved** that:

1. The matter be dealt with in Mr Lang's absence;
2. the request by Mr Lang for an exemption from displaying door stickers on his restricted private hire vehicle RV 293 be **refused**.

### **Reasons for Decision**

Having regard to the report and why the conditions were introduced Members were not satisfied that passenger safety would not be compromised. The Members noted Mr Lang's exemption would only apply to when the vehicle was being used for executive hire however it was still a licensed vehicle and Members were concerned of the safety of the travelling public and ease of vehicle identification.

The members were not satisfied that if the vehicle was to be driven by other drivers then they may forget to put the door decals back on the vehicle for airport runs.

There was no information provided by Mr Lang that persuaded Committee it was reasonable to depart from the requirement to display door decals.

### **85 Exclusion of the Public.**

The Committee was requested to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business identified in the recommendations to the report on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph of 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007, relevant to the item of business as set out in the report.

The Committee considered the Public Interest Test in deciding to exclude the public from the meeting for the items of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant, as set out in the report.

**Resolved** that the public be excluded for the following items of business.

**(Closed Session)**

**86 Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 - Application for the Grant of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence - RPR.**

The Divisional Officer, Licensing, Food & Safety, detailed the background in respect of RPR's application for the grant of a hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence.

Members asked questions of the Officer who responded accordingly.

RPR explained the circumstances relating to the request and answered Members' questions.

**Resolved** that RPR's request for the grant of a hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence be **approved** and a letter advising of the standards expected of a driver licensed with Swansea Council be sent with the licence to RPR.

**87 Immediate Action Update.**

The Immediate Action Update was **noted**.

The meeting ended at 10.38 am

**Chair**