

Minutes of the meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 16 April 2024 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor G Cowan

Councillors: E A Biggs (as substitute for Councillor J P Loffman)
S Hill (as substitute for Councillor P M Brivio)
O C de R Richardson

Officers: Principal Lawyer - Litigation and Regulatory
Licensing Manager
Licensing Officer
Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Mr L Calthorpe (Minute No.47)

43 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M Brivio and J P Loffman.

44 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillors E A Biggs and S H Hill were appointed as substitute members for Councillors J P Loffman and P M Brivio respectively.

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2024 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

47 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 - APPLICATION TO LICENCE VEHICLE OUTSIDE OF POLICY GUIDELINES

The Licensing Manager presented the report to the Committee. Mr Lee Calthorpe was seeking permission for the grant of a licence for his Skoda Octavia as a Private Hire vehicle. Due to the vehicle being registered on 31 May 2016 it was outside the current vehicle age policy (exceeding 5 years of age) and officer delegation (maximum of two further years) and was therefore referred to the Committee for its consideration.

The Committee withdrew to examine the vehicle accompanied by Mr Calthorpe and officers. Upon returning Mr Calthorpe had the opportunity to answer questions from Members about the condition and history of the vehicle. The vehicle, registration GD16 XSY was a four-passenger seat vehicle to be used for private hire within the Dover district and beyond. The vehicle had been used as a licensed taxi from new and was taken out of service during Covid in 2020 when there was a lack of drivers and need for the car. Mr Calthorpe explained that enquiries for work were now

increasing from drivers and to be able to offer drivers this vehicle would prevent a risky financial commitment purchasing a new car - some drivers did not stay long, others did stay and got their own vehicle. Mr Calthorpe may or may not be able to get another driver. He further explained that the car was well maintained both mechanically and cosmetically and would be used sparingly on a part time basis and he did not foresee the vehicle being used for 60 to 70 hours a week.

In accordance with the approved procedure the Committee along with the Litigation and Regulatory Lawyer withdrew from the meeting to consider its decision. Upon returning it was reported that given the good condition of the vehicle, both externally and internally, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding the Council's current policy guidelines, Mr Lee Calthorpe be granted a Private Hire Vehicle licence for Skoda Octavia registration GD16 XSY, for a period of 12 months.

48 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 115E - THE TOLL BRIDGE, 7 FISHERMAN'S WHARF, SANDWICH

This item was withdrawn.

The meeting ended at 10.20 am.