

Minutes of the meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at 10.04 am.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor N J Collor

Councillors: E A Biggs (as substitute for Councillor P M Brivio)
D G Beaney (as substitute for Councillor O C de R Richardson)
D Hannent (as substitute for Councillor R S Walkden)

Officers: Licensing Manager
Licensing Enforcement Officer
Regulatory Lawyer
Contentious and Regulatory Lawyer
Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Mr Paul Lawrence (Minute No.27)

23 APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors P M Brivio, S J Jones, O C de R Richardson and R S Walkden.

24 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillors E A Biggs, D G Beaney and D Hannent be appointed as substitute members for Councillor P M Brivio, O C de R Richardson and R S Walkden respectively.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

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

The Licensing Manager presented the report to the Committee. An application from Mr Paul Lawrence had been received for the renewal of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence for a Skoda Octavia, registration BT11 FCJ. It was a four-passenger seat vehicle to be used for normal private hire duties. The vehicle fell outside of the current vehicle age policy, having been registered in June 2011 and having reached 10 years and 2 months old, the vehicle was referred to the Committee for a decision.

Mr Lawrence attended the meeting and along with officers and the Committee, withdrew to examine the vehicle. Upon returning to the meeting room Mr Lawrence had the opportunity to answer questions from Members about his application and the condition and history of the vehicle.

Mr Lawrence explained the effects of the Covid pandemic on his business and that his earnings had not yet recovered to the pre-pandemic levels and that during the last 18 months on some days he was earning £30 - £40 a day. In addition, he had been unable to work on two separate occasions for prolonged periods due to health.

Mr Lawrence provided the Committee with invoices which showed the work carried out on the vehicle by Elms Vale garage. He advised Members that the advisories from the last MOT had been completed although, provided further clarification that the vehicle passed its MOT and some other works had been carried out. Mr Lawrence informed the Committee that any problems with the vehicle were rectified quickly and customers often commented on the vehicle's cleanliness and how well maintained it was. Mr Lawrence told the Committee he was unable to replace the vehicle at this time due to his low earnings during the last 18 months and the increase of second-hand car prices.

RESOLVED: That, on the basis that the offside rear bumper that is protruding from the vehicle is repaired within the next 4 weeks and having been inspected by the Licensing Team, and notwithstanding the Council's current policy guidelines, Mr P Lawrence be granted the renewal of a Private Hire Licence for a Skoda Octavia, registration BT11 FCJ for a period of 12 months with no further renewals.

The meeting ended at 10.43 am.