

**Committee and Date**Licensing and Safety  
Sub Committee15<sup>th</sup> August 2012**Item****2**

Public

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012**

10.00 a.m. – 10.55 a.m.

**Responsible Officers** Shelley DaviesEmail: [shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 01743 252719**Present**Councillors: P. Adams (Chairman)  
T. Barker, B. Benyon, Jon Tandy and Rosanna Taylor-Smith.**15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Baker, Councillor V. Bushell (Councillor J. Tandy was in attendance as his substitute) and Councillor A. Davies (Councillor R. Taylor Smith was in attendance as his substitute).

**16. MINUTES****RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**17. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions, statements or petitions received.

**18. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None received.

**19. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE  
LICENCE FOR A SALOON VEHICLE IN ZONE FOUR (FORMER BOROUGH OF  
SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Licensing Officer in respect of an

application for renewal of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence for a saloon vehicle in Zone Four (former Borough of Shrewsbury & Atcham).

The Licensing Officer presented the report to the Sub-Committee, advising Members that the vehicle did not meet current policy for Zone 4, as it was not wheelchair accessible, and the Sub Committee needed to consider whether there were any exceptional circumstances to warrant licensing a vehicle outside of this policy.

Mr Williamson (the applicant) and Mr Nolan (the applicant's legal representative) were in attendance. The applicant's legal representative presented the case to the Sub-Committee, confirming that Mr Williamson had an ongoing knee complaint following an accident in 1993 and he did not feel safe to push a wheelchair on to a vehicle. A letter from the applicant's doctor was circulated to Members.

In response to questions raised by the Licensing Officer and Members of the Sub-Committee, the applicant confirmed that:

- He had changed his vehicle earlier this year;
- Although he had problems with his ankle, his main concern was his knee;
- He was able to drive a manual vehicle without causing problems to his knee;
- He had built up a Hackney Carriage business since 2003 and had not considered changing to Private Hire work;
- A large proportion of his work was Hackney Carriage work, approximately 60% - 70%;
- He worked from 7.30 am to 7.30 pm Monday to Friday, during the evening on Fridays and Saturdays and sometimes on a Sunday;
- He had held a Hackney Carriage Drivers' licence since 2003;
- His knee problems had got worse over time;
- He took regular breaks and did not drive continually;
- He was currently waiting to see a specialist at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital; and
- He previously had a wheelchair accessible vehicle but changed this 2 ½ years ago when he purchased a saloon Hackney Carriage from a driver who had retired.

The Licensing Officer summed up the application and the Chairman invited the applicant to make any final comments prior to the Sub-Committee making its decision.

Members of the Sub-Committee retired to consider the matter, in private, at 10.24 a.m. and reconvened at 10.54a.m. to announce their decision.

**RESOLVED:**

That the renewal application for a saloon Hackney Carriage in Zone Four (former Borough of Shrewsbury and Atcham) be refused, in line with policy.

Reasons: Members took account of the applicant's medical condition, however, they did not consider that such a condition alone warranted an exception to policy being made. The applicant had known at all relevant times that grandfather rights expired in 2012 yet (leaving aside whether he was entitled to grandfather rights in any event) he sold his wheelchair accessible vehicle 2 ½ years ago to purchase a saloon and he had purchased a new saloon in May this year. Further, Members noted that the applicant's medical condition did not affect his ability to drive a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....