

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 16 APRIL, 2007
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Easton, R. (Chairman)
Butler, R.D. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Davies, D.N.
Ball, G.D.	Freeman, M.P.
Carr, I.R.	Grice, Mrs. D.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. J. Holder, R.C. Turville and B Williams).

33. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March, 2007 be approved as a correct record.

34. Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2, Part I, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

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PART 2

35. Private Hire Vehicle Licence

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Applicant attended the meeting to present his case.

The Chairman invited all those present to introduce themselves.

The Officer presented the Council's case by taking the Committee through the report outlining the relevant issues for consideration. She advised that the application for a private hire vehicle licence had been made by the applicant on 6 February, 2007. The applicant was aware of the Council's age policy and that an exemption applied for "exceptional vehicles".

Members were being asked to determine the application and consider whether the vehicle was an "exceptional vehicle".

Members then examined the applicant's vehicle.

The applicant along with Members of the Committee were afforded the opportunity of asking questions of the officer. In response to a question from a Member, the officer confirmed that should the licence be granted, it would be for a 12 month period or a lesser period should Members consider this more appropriate. She further confirmed that the vehicle had been imported from America and that stretched limousines in America were used for 4 years before being imported.

The applicant was then asked to present his case. He stated that the vehicle had been structurally tested and had undergone a service. He had spent a lot of money and considered the vehicle was ready to be presented to the Committee. Although there was no service history with the vehicle he stated that he would maintain the service history from now on. He considered that the vehicle was good enough to be licensed as a private hire vehicle. He advised that he had set up a servicing plan for the vehicle and that a service would be undertaken every 5,000 miles or 3 months (whichever was the sooner). The plan

was circulated for Members' information.

Members of the Committee were then given the opportunity of asking questions of the applicant. In response to a question, the applicant confirmed that the vehicle would be serviced by Classic Car Services and that he kept the vehicle in a unit on Chaseside Drive.

A Member questioned why the applicant had not had the engine steam cleaned. The applicant explained that Central Limousines had advised against having the engine steam cleaned as it could damage the engine on older limousines.

A Member questioned the service history for the vehicle. The applicant advised that he had attempted to trace the previous owner to obtain any service history but to no avail. He confirmed that he would be maintaining the service history for the vehicle from now on.

The Officer was then afforded the opportunity to ask questions of the applicant. The applicant was asked to confirm how long he intended to keep the vehicle and he stated he would keep the vehicle for 2 years. In response to a further question, the applicant stated that he intended to undertake 40,000 miles per year and that the vehicle would be driven by licensed private hire drivers from A & B Taxis.

The Officer then summed up the Council's case. She stated that Members had viewed the vehicle and questioned the applicant regarding his intentions for the vehicle. Members would need to determine whether they considered the vehicle was "exceptional".

The applicant was then afforded the opportunity to sum up his case and he stated that he would maintain the vehicle in very good condition both mechanically and visually.

Prior to the Committee deliberating in private the Chairman asked if there were any points that required clarification. A Member asked the applicant to clarify if he intended to undertake 40,000 miles per year. The applicant confirmed that this was correct.

The Chairman asked the applicant to confirm that should a licence be granted, he would formally agree to having the vehicle serviced every 5,000 miles or 3 months (whichever was the sooner). In response to this the Officer explained that this request was covered by Council policy which stated that stretched limousines shall be mechanically tested and inspected at the Council's appointed garage every 6,000 miles and this test be funded by the licence holder.

The Chairman then asked for clarification as to whether the vehicle could be used privately should a licence be granted. The Officer stated that only registered private hire drivers could drive the vehicle once it was licensed.

Photographs of the vehicle were then circulated to the Committee.

The Committee then deliberated in private accompanied by the Council's Legal Adviser and Secretary to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

(A) That having regard to all the circumstances the application for a Private Hire

Vehicle Licence be approved as the Committee was satisfied that the vehicle was an "exceptional vehicle" as defined by the Council's policy for the age restriction of private hire vehicles.

- (B) That the Private Hire Vehicle Licence be granted for 12 months from 16 April, 2007.

CHAIRMAN