

# REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2004 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, at 2.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ashford, Butler, Doody, Mrs Goode, Harris, Hatfield, Mrs Knight, Kundi and Windybank.

(Councillor Ashford substituted for Councillor Gill).

(Councillor Hatfield substituted for Councillor Coker).

## 131. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Goode be appointed Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

## 132. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Gill be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

## 133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 134. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 January, 28 January, 19 February (10.00 am and 2.15 pm), 22 March and 25 March 2004, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 135. PUBLIC AND PRESS

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 4 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## 136. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Council's Solicitor addressed the Committee on its role and the role of individual Members.

## 137. APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCES

A report from Members' and Customer Services was submitted on applications for private hire drivers licences where the criminal record check had revealed convictions.

Authority had been delegated to the officers to approve or refuse applications for drivers licences depending on previous endorsements or convictions. If an application was refused, the applicant was invited to appeal to the Committee. At its meeting held in 1992, the Licensing Sub-Committee had approved guidelines for deciding on applications which revealed convictions.

## **REGULATORY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

The Committee considered an application from JJ (date of birth 11 April 1975), whose criminal record check had disclosed convictions in 1999 and 2001. JJ addressed the Committee in support of his application and answered questions from Members.

JJ was then invited to sum up, which he did.

He then left the room while the Committee considered his application.

The Committee received advice from officers on various matters including the provisions of the Human Rights Act.

**RESOLVED** that in view of the previous convictions and the information submitted to the Committee, the officers decision to refuse the application be upheld.

JJ was then invited back into the meeting and informed of the decision.

The second driver (GSJ – date of birth 21 November 1963), details of which were in the report was unable to attend the Committee. The officers would make arrangements for him to attend a future meeting.

### **138. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS MEDICALS**

A report from Members' Services was submitted on an increase in the fee charged by the Occupational Health Medical Officer, for medical examinations of applicants for, and holders of, hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences.

All applicants for private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences had to satisfy the Group II medical standards which were applicable to heavy goods vehicles drivers and public service vehicle drivers. Once licensed, they had to continue to comply with the standard. To ensure that applicants and existing drivers complied with the standard, Doctor Popplewell, the Occupational Health Medical Officer, carried out the necessary medical examinations.

Up until 7 June 2004, Doctor Popplewell charged £25 per examination and a £6 charge was added to this to cover the Council's administrative costs.

On 17 May 2004, Doctor Popplewell informed the officers that she was increasing her charge with effect from 7 June 2004, to £32.50. The £6 administration charge was considered to be sufficient for the time being.

In order that the Council did not lose money, it had been necessary to increase the charge made to applications and drivers to £38.50 and this was done with effect from 7 June.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 3.30 pm)