

MINUTE

‘B’

Licensing Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 26 October 2011 at 10.30am

Present:

J Budge A Hughson
J G Simpson

Apologies:

A T J Cooper A J Cluness
G Robinson C L Smith

In Attendance (Officers):

B C Hill, Acting Divisional Manager - Legal
K Duerden, Executive Manager – Ferry Operations
M Dunne, Executive Manager – Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Chief Insp. A MacInnes, Northern Constabulary
L Gair, Committee Officer

Chair

Mr J Budge, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read. The Chair advised that he would take agenda item two first in order that the applicants present did not have to wait.

Declarations of Interest

None.

10/11 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 5 September 2011, having been circulated, was confirmed.

On the motion of Mr Budge, seconded by Mr Hughson, the Committee resolved in terms of subsection 4 of Section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from this meeting during consideration of agenda item 1 on the grounds that it is likely that, if the public were present, there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the said Act.

(Members of the Public and Media left the Chamber)

11/11 **Application for Grant of Taxi Driver Licence**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Air, Bus and Vehicle Fleet.

The Committee decided to admit for consideration observations from the Police concerning previous convictions of the applicant. Copies of the Police observations were then circulated to Members.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | grant a taxi driver's licence for 3 years | 1 |
| 2. | grant a taxi driver's licence for 1 year | 2 |

(Members of the Public and Media returned the Chamber)

12/11 **Review of Taxi Tariffs and Taxi Rules – Consultation Phase**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Air, Bus and Vehicle Fleet (TR-27-11-F).

Members considered the increase in fuel costs and acknowledged the need to increase the taxi charges. They also noted that in comparing the tariffs in other areas of the UK, Shetland was in line with the national average even though the cost of fuel was much higher in Shetland.

In response to a query, the Executive Manager – Ferry Operations advised that consideration had previously been given, by the Committee, to placing a cap on the number of licences issued. However he said that there did not appear to be overprovision in this area. The Chair advised that this had been discussed with the forum and it was not taken forward as it was recognised that there were a number of part time taxi drivers, and also there was concern how this would affect provision in rural areas.

At the request of Members the Executive Manager – Ferry Operations advised that he would ask the Service Manager – Air, Bus and Vehicle Fleet to report to Members on the number of licences issued and the number of licences issued by delegated authority compared to those that came to committee.

Members unanimously approved the recommendations contained in paragraph 2.

Decision

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve:

1. The proposed maximum taxi tariffs for the next 18 months and the proposed rules prior to their use in the consultation exercise; and
2. The methodology and dates laid out in paragraph 3.6 and 3.12 of the report for the statutory one-month consultation.

The meeting concluded at 11.05am.

CHAIR