

# GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Armitage (in the Chair), Councillors Brown, Sareva and Sinclair (as a substitute for Councillor Turner).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Lois Stock (Democratic Services Officer), Phil Pirouet (Transport and Parking Business Unit) and Alex Solaja (Environmental Health Business Unit).

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Councillor Armitage was elected to chair the meeting.

## 29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair (Councillor Brett), the Vice-Chair (Councillor Turner) and from Councillors Campbell, Goddard and Muir. Councillor Sinclair attended as a substitute for Councillor Turner.

## 30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None made.

## 31. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair agreed to certify as urgent business a report upon the proposed variation of hours at The Private Shop, 54 Cowley Road in order that a decision upon the report could be reached before the proposed variation period.

It was confirmed that the owner of the establishment had advertised the variation in the Oxford Mail. No comments or objections had been received by the City Council. Alex Solaja confirmed that there was no policy in existence concerning the appearance of sex establishments.

Resolved to approve the variation in hours applied for as follows:

- (1) Hours of trading to be 09.00 hours to 20.00 hours Monday to Saturday, and from 10.00 hours to 16.30 hours on Sunday;
- (2) The variation to apply for a period of 13 days from 11<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2005 inclusive. This includes the two Sundays preceding Christmas.

### **32. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

- (1) Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.
- (2) With reference to minute 27, Cllr Armitage informed the Committee that he had asked the Oxford Pedestrians' Association to notify the City Council via Rebecca Carley (Area Co-ordinator), and the Executive Board, of the proposed date for Car Free Day 2006 once it was known.

Resolved to note this information.

### **33. TINTED WINDOWS ON LICENSED VEHICLES**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended), concerning tinted windows on licensed vehicles.

Phil Pirouet explained that this was intended to formalise the requirement for vehicles licensed by the City Council to have a clear and uninterrupted view through all windows. This was for the safety of both passengers and drivers.

In answer to a question, he indicated that the City Council had not received any applications for licenses for stretch limousines. These vehicles did not fall into any category of licensable vehicles – they were neither private hire vehicles nor public service vehicles. There was a report going to the House of Lords shortly which it was hoped would resolve this issue.

Resolved:-

- (1) To approve the proposed changes in conditions for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles as laid out as follows:-
  - “(i) Windows must be provided at the sides and at the rear of the vehicles. The light transmission of any window in any position must not be less than that currently required of the front windscreen and side windows by The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
  - (ii) The light transmission through the windows of vehicles licensed prior to the introduction of this condition may not be reduced in any way from that present when the vehicle was approved for licensing.”
- (2) To ask the Transport and Business Parking Manager to arrange for a letter to go to the appropriate Minister of State seeking clarification of the issue of licensing stretch limousines.

#### **34. PAYMENT FOR FAILING TO ATTEND A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE TEST**

The Parking and Transport Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended) concerning payment for failing to attend a Certificate of Compliance test

Resolved to approve the proposed charges for non-attendance of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles for pre-arranged tests for the Certificate of Compliance as follows:-

“That when a vehicle has not arrived and been made available for testing within ten minutes of the time of the arranged appointment for testing, the test will be refused and a charge of £15 will be made. This charge must be paid prior to any subsequent test being carried out on that vehicle.”

#### **35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved to note that the next scheduled date for the Committee to meet was on 20th January 2006

The meeting started at 9.30am and closed at 9.45am.