

**LICENSING COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 6.30 pm on 9 JUNE 2004**

Present:- Councillor M J Savage – Chairman.
Councillors R F Freeman, V J T Lelliott, J I Loughlin,
A Marchant, and D J Morson.

Officers in attendance:- M Hardy, C Nicholson, M Perry, C Roberts,
G Smith and A Turner.

LC45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K R Artus, and A R Row.

The Chairman of the Committee referred with gratitude to the work of Councillors A Dean and B Hughes who had now retired from the Committee, and welcomed the new Members, Councillors R F Freeman, J I Loughlin and D J Morson.

**LC46 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD
ON 3 MARCH 2004 AND 7 APRIL 2004**

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 3 March and 7 April 2004 were received and approved as a correct record subject, in the April Minutes, to the insertion of Councillor Row's name in the list of those present and the deletion of Councillors Lelliott and Marchant from the list of those apologising as absent.

LC47 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minutes LC32, LC33 and LC35 – Liaison with Taxi Associations

The Licensing Officer informed the meeting that the Uttlesford Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association had deposited a copy of their constitution and elected officers as requested.

The Chairman gave an update on liaison with the Associations by Members and by Officers. He felt that much valuable ground had been covered by this and that it was now important to refrain from revisiting aspects of the work. In particular, external vehicle signage had been thoroughly considered by Members and Officers and the resulting decisions should be implemented for at least the ensuing year.

(ii) Minute LC37 – Determination of applications

The Chairman reminded Members of the reasons for using smaller tribunals to determine applications and stressed that apologies for absence would be

expected only from those who were on the rota to hear the application, not from the rest of the Committee.

(iii) Minute LC36 – Update on Liquor Licensing

The Police Licensing Officer, Steve Sparrow gave a presentation on his role and activities and likely future developments which might affect the District. He then answered Members' questions, stressing the likelihood of applications for late-night liquor licences..

The Principal Environmental Health Officer outlined the existing and proposed legislation and informed Members about new legislative deadlines and their likely impact upon the Council. He agreed to circulate a brief resume of the information and added that the new training dates were 21 July, 27 September and 13 October.

The Chairman thanked the Police Licensing Officer and the Principal Environmental Health Officer for their reports and those Officers then left the meeting.

LC48

LICENSING VINTAGE CARS

The Committee considered a report about demand for a new class of licensed private hire vehicle to cover vintage cars. Research had been carried out by Officers regarding the feasibility of this, and additional licence conditions had been developed which were acceptable to the applicants. In view of the limitations imposed, a smaller fee was suggested for the licence.

Members were informed that the state of the vehicle was a matter of more concern than its age. Officers gave explanations for the limitation of operation to daylight hours only, and it was noted that normal MOT tests would have to be passed although the standards would be appropriate to the original specification.

RESOLVED that a new class of vintage private hire licensed vehicle be created and to be subject to the additional special conditions below

- (i) Use to be limited to the period 1 April to 31 October in any year, plus the Easter weekend if that falls in March of that same year.
- (ii) Use to be limited to day light hours only.
- (iii) Use to be within a radius of 25 miles of the operating base nominated.
- (iv) Capacity to be limited to three passengers.
- (v) Applicable to vehicles manufactured pre 1945 only.

- (vi) A reduced annual licence fee of £100

LC49

VEHICLE TESTING

The Committee received a detailed report by the Head of Environmental Services about testing arrangements for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. It recommended continuation of the current tests, which were over and above the normal MOT, and improvement of the testing facilities during the relocation of the Dunmow Depot by the addition in particular of emissions equipment and a rolling road machine.

Members debated about the advantages of continuing in house testing.

The Head of Corporate Governance informed the meeting that the new equipment could not be installed at the existing premises. The present equipment was legal and used for carrying out inspections to the correct specification. Outsourcing the tests in either the short or the long term posed problems since the tests were to a higher standard than MOT.

RESOLVED that the use of the centralised non-commercial test facilities continue and that inclusion of test station requirements be endorsed subject to a feasibility study as part of the relocation of the Dunmow depot in 2006.

(Councillor R F Freeman abstained from voting).

LC50

COMPLAINTS

The Committee considered a report on complaints received over the Previous three years about the Councils licensing service.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the low level of complaints received.

The meeting ended at 9.03 pm.