

## **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE** held on Thursday 25 July 2013 at 11.05am

### **Present**

**Councillors:** Mrs E M Andrews, M D Binks, R J Chesterton, Mrs F J Colthorpe, D R Coren, A V G Griffiths, T G Hughes, D J Knowles, M A Lucas and E G Luxton

### **Apologies**

**Councillors:** N V Davey and M R Lee

### **Also Present**

**Councillor:** R M Deed

### **Also Present**

**Officers:** M Parish (Licensing Manager), T Keating (Licensing Officer) and S Lees (Member Services Officer).

## **1 CHAIRMAN – ELECTION**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr T G Hughes be elected Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

Cllr T G Hughes then took the Chair.

## **2. VICE CHAIRMAN – ELECTION**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr D J Knowles be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

## **3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

## **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 18 February 2013**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman

## **5. PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, a report \* from the Head of Environmental Services reporting on regulatory performance for the previous year. She brought Members attention to an increase in licences and registrations in relation to scrap metal dealers which had now escalated to 13. She informed the Committee that some new legislation regarding scrap

metal dealers would be issued by the Government in the Autumn and that she would wait for Home office guidance before recommending a set of fees.

Discussion took place regarding a recent operation to inspect taxi vehicles for road worthiness. Twenty eight vehicles had been inspected with eight being taken off the road immediately. Between 5 and 6 prohibition notices had been issued. As a result a stricter inspection test would now be applied twice yearly to check that licensed vehicles were safe for the public to be transported.

It was confirmed that taxis were subject to the same parking restrictions as ordinary members of the public parking their own vehicles. Taxi firms would be reminded of this in a newsletter being sent out shortly.

## 6. **PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH LATE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee had before it a report \* from the Head of Environmental Services putting forward an additional element to the hackney carriages and private hire regulations. This detailed a procedure for dealing with late documents as previously there had been no system for dealing with taxi firms not submitting paperwork within the stated timescales. The result of this was that Licensing Officers had to spend a great deal of time reminding taxi firms of the need to get their forms in.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed procedure for dealing with late documents be adopted subject to section 2.6 of the report being amended to read as follows:

Failure by the relevant person to attend an interview may result in the licensing team taking enforcement action. As an example, if the driver cannot show he or she is fit to group two medical standards the licence **will** be suspended. Likewise, if, ***after the Licensing team have checked the relevant documents,*** there is no evidence of a vehicle passing its MOT we **will** suspend the vehicle licence.

(Proposed by Cllr M A Lucas and seconded by Cllr D J Knowles)

(The meeting ended at 11.30am)

**CHAIRMAN**