

LICENSING BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023 at 10.00 am in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Sam Bambridge (Chair); Councillors Rogers, Currie, Dexter, Huxley, Potts, M Saunders and Shrubbs

In Attendance:

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ara, Dennis, Smith and Wing.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee Members agreed that the item be deferred to the next meeting. This was in order to ascertain whether the Board decision made regarding the confidential item on the "Licence to Drive Private Hire Vehicles" that was considered on 22 November 2022 can be published in public.

4. **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Councillor Currie proposed, Councillor Shrubbs seconded and members agreed that the minutes of the Licensing Board held on 23 February 2023 be signed as a correct record.

5. **CHANGES TO DRIVER KNOWLEDGE TEST**

Mrs Brock, Technical Support Team Manager, introduced the report.

The report detailed proposed changes to be made to the Driver Knowledge Test which Private Hire Drivers or Hackney Carriage Drivers are required to take.

Members asked questions towards Mrs Brock, the Technical Support Team Manager.

Mrs Stocker, Senior Licensing Officer, also assisted with answering the questions put forward from Members.

Councillor Shrubbs proposed, Councillor Saunders seconded and Members agreed:

1. That the price to take the knowledge test remains at £41 for the first instance and then drops to £20 for every repeat test (this has to be passed by finance as it is a change to fees and charges).
2. That the option for an evening course once a month be looked into for new applicants.
3. With immediate effect the current safeguarding course to be upgraded to the on-line classroom based course therefore ensuring that applicants are actually taking the test themselves, cost of course to be paid by the applicant.

4. That going forward, the Technical Support Team will do a full review of the testing procedure, looking specifically at an in-house full day training course and assessment and present a further report to the Board at the June meeting.

Meeting concluded: 10.46 am