

City of Durham Parish Council

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21 September 2020

Access details for Zoom Licensing Committee meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87987398127>

Meeting ID: 879 8739 8127

Dear Licensing Committee Member,

In accordance with both the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of local authority and Police and Crime Panel meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** will be held in **via Zoom** on **Friday 25 September 2020 at 2pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. To receive any declarations of interest from members**
- 3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 28 August 2020**
- 4. To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items. Please email the Parish Clerk parishclerk@cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk to register to speak**
- 5. Update on proposal from Durham Police to fund an enhanced drug testing facility**
- 6. Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles DCC policy consultation – report included.**
- 7. Update on recent licensing applications**
- 8. To consider the following pavement licensing applications:**
Coviello Coffee and Barber - 24 Silver St, Durham DH1 3RD Co.Durham (report included).

And, pursuant to the provisions of the above-named Act, I Hereby Summon You to attend the said meeting.

Adam Shanley

Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Friday 28th August at 14:00 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors E Ashby, R Cornwell and C Reeves.
Also present: A Shanley (Clerk).

Cllr E Ashby in the Chair

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Brown, A Doig and D Freeman.

2. **To receive any declarations of interest from members**

None received.

3. **To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 14 August 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. **To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items**

None received.

5. **Proposal from Durham Police to fund an enhanced drug testing facility**

The Clerk advised that he had been in further dialogue with the Harm Reduction Unit at Durham Police, following the presentation from Inspector Siobhan Jones at the previous meeting, regarding the proposal that the Parish Council potentially funds an enhanced drug tracking service in licensed premises using a specially trained dog.

The Clerk advised that he had received a quote of £600 per session for this service and confirmation that the Parish Council may select a preferred date for these searches to take place.

The Committee **agreed** to a proposal of two sessions, totalling a cost of £1,200, being funded by the Parish Council to go forward as a recommendation for approval to Full Council.

Members also **agreed** that the end of October and December in the run up to Christmas would be their preferred times for these searches to take place in licensed premises.

6. **Preparing for the hackney carriages and private hire vehicles DCC policy consultation**

The Clerk advised Members that the consultation on Durham County Council's hackney carriages and private hire vehicles policy is soon to commence. The Clerk advised that he had discussed this with the Team Leader of the Licensing team at Durham County Council who had advised that this consultation has come about following the publication of newly updated guidance from Government to

local authorities on their hackney carriages and private hire vehicles licensing policy.

The Clerk reminded Members of a recent communication proposing that the Parish Council seeks the support of a professional barrister in responding to this consultation given the significance of taxis in particular on the parish. Members felt that this would not be necessary in this particular situation and **agreed** to respond to the consultation as a Committee.

The Clerk advised that he would inform Members as and when the consultation is live.

7. Update on recent licensing applications

The Clerk advised that Coviello had been successful in securing its license, with conditions attached.

The Clerk also advised that the Committee's agreed objection had been submitted to DCC and that the Parish Council is awaiting a response to this.

8. To consider the following licensing applications:

Discovering Durham CIC

Members considered the application from Discovering Durham CIC for the sale of alcohol (off the premises) Monday to Sunday 10:00am to 6:00pm.

It was **agreed** that the Committee would be minded to note this application depending on further information being requested as part of the premises' proposed operating schedule.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

Signed,

Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Licensing Committee

ITEM 6: HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES DCC POLICY CONSULTATION

The County Council has now launched a consultation on its hackney carriages and private hire vehicles policy.

Members will recall that this was discussed at a previous meeting of the Parish Council's Licensing Committee and it was agreed at the meeting that the Parish Council ought to respond in view of the important role which these vehicles play in the City of Durham Parish area.

Further details on the new draft policy and the consultation can be found here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/24130/Review-of-our-Hackney-Carriage-and-Private-Hire-Licensing-Policy>

The Policy

DCC has made changes to the current policy, often called the taxi policy. The purpose of the policy is to explain how the County Council undertakes its functions when licensing hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The primary focus being on safeguarding and public protection, particularly, the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Vehicle standards

The Government has recently published new national standards for taxi and private hire licensing (Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards).

This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards>

The Department for Transport expects these recommendations to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to.

DCC is proposing a new policy on vehicle emissions and the age of licensed vehicles. Adoption of these new policy requirements for new and existing vehicles will enable Durham licensed vehicles to meet similar, improved standards required by several other councils in our region. It is expected that this will help to reduce traffic pollution and improve local air quality.

This means:

New licences: From the date of adoption of this policy in 2021, all new applications for licensed vehicles will only be accepted if the vehicle to be licensed is less than 4 years old from the date of registration.

Existing vehicles: Adopt a maximum 8-year vehicle life with a start date of 1st April 2024. This means that from 1st April 2024 all diesel and petrol engine vehicles will be Euro 6 or above. All existing licensed vehicles that are more than 8 years old will not be re-licensed after 1st April 2024.

Wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV): Existing licensed WAVs will have an extra 2 years added to the age restriction. This means that all existing licensed WAVs that are more than 10 years old will not be re-licensed after 1st April 2024.

Zero emission vehicles: Fully electric and zero emission (at source) vehicles would be exempt from the age restriction/emissions policy.

Driver and passenger safety

DCC is proposing a new policy in respect of previous convictions and offences. DCC proposes to follow the Department of Transport's recommendations on the assessment of previous convictions developed by the Institute of Licensing.

DCC is proposing a new policy on drug testing. In view of a significant number of drivers with cautions and/or convictions for drug related offences the County Council would require drug and alcohol tests on drivers on both an intelligence led and random basis.

Currently DCC requires all new drivers to have been trained on the prevention of child sexual exploitation before being licensed. DCC considers that this training is so important that all drivers should do refresher training periodically. DCC is proposing a new requirement for refresher training on the prevention of child sexual exploitation every three years.

DCC does not currently require drivers to have been trained in disability awareness. Many drivers who work under contract and carry people with disabilities do have to undergo such training. DCC believes it important that all drivers are disability aware and is proposing that all drivers must be trained in disability awareness.

Use of CCTV in vehicles

The Government has acknowledged the potential risk to public safety when passengers travel in taxis and private hire vehicles. The use of CCTV can provide a safer environment for the benefit of taxi/private hire vehicle passengers and drivers by:

- deterring and preventing the occurrence of crime
- reducing the fear of crime
- assisting the police in investigating incidents of crime
- assisting insurance companies in investigating motor vehicle accidents.

Where an applicant has 6 points on their DVLA driving licence for minor traffic or similar offences, DCC proposes that they will be required to undertake a driver improvement scheme at their own expense. The licensing authority holds a list of current providers of the driving improvement scheme.

Responding to the consultation

The closing date for comments is midnight on Sunday 29 November 2020.

All replies will be reviewed and any amendments to the draft policy will be made. It will then go to DCC's General Licensing and Registration Committee (GLRC), and then to the next Full Council meeting for approval. Any changes will be adopted by April 2021. The Policy will continue thereafter until 2026.

ITEM 8: TABLES AND CHAIRS LICENSING APPLICATION - COVIELLO COFFEE & BARBER

Business Name	Coviello Coffee & Barber
Address	24 Silver St, Durham DH1 3RD Co.Durham
Business Hours	Monday 9am–9pm Tuesday 9am–9pm Wednesday 9am–9pm Thursday 9am–9pm Friday 9am–11pm Saturday 9am–11pm Sunday Closed
Requested Items in drawn Area	2 tables and 4 chairs (2 Chairs on each table)
Currently licensed to sell Alcohol	Didn't specify
If yes, Does your license include off sales?	Didn't specify

