

**MINUTES of MEETING of PLANNING, PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND LICENSING  
COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD  
on WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Present:** Councillor David Kinniburgh (Chair)

Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Neil MacIntyre	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Robert G MacIntyre	Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Donald MacMillan	

**Attending:** Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law  
Kate Connelly, Solicitor  
Mr Coulson, Applicant  
Sergeant Iain MacNicol, Police Scotland  
Heather Murray, Police Scotland

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillors Gordon Blair, Rory Colville, Mary-Jean Devon, Roderick McCuish and Alistair MacDougall.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982: APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE (R COULSON, TIGHNABRUAICH)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He then outlined the procedure that would be followed and invited the Applicant to speak in support of his application.

**Applicant**

Mr Coulson referred to failing to advise of his previous convictions on his application form and stated that this was a mistake on his part as he had misread the application form. He then referred to his convictions and provided further information on these. He advised that he was a postman and also a volunteered with the coastguard and was used to a lot of driving.

As the Police had no questions the Chair invited Inspector MacNicol to speak in support of the Chief Constable's representation.

**Police**

Sergeant MacNicol read out the contents of the Chief Constable's letter

which provided details of convictions the Applicant had failed to disclose on his application form.

As Mr Coulson had no questions the Chair invited Members to ask questions.

### **Members' Questions**

Councillor Robert MacIntyre asked how often Mr Coulson intended driving a taxi. Mr Coulson confirmed that he was a full time post man and volunteered for the coastguard. He stated that he was applying for a taxi driver licence in order to help out a colleague and that he did not expect to be driving more than 2 days per week.

Councillor Kinniburgh received confirmation that Mr Coulson had misread the application form which led to four previous convictions not being listed.

### **Summing Up**

#### Police

Sergeant MacNicol referred to Mr Coulson's failure to disclose his previous convictions on his application form and noted the reason for this. He stated that the offences did occur and it was for the Committee to determine whether or not they considered Mr Coulson a fit and proper person to hold a taxi driver licence.

#### Applicant

Mr Coulson advised that he had nothing further to add.

The Chair asked both parties to confirm if they had received a fair hearing and they both confirmed this to be the case.

### **Debate**

Councillor McNaughton recommended that the application be granted.

Councillor Freeman stated that Mr Coulson had committed no offences in the past 12 years with the exception of a speeding conviction and that he was minded to grant the application.

Councillor Kinniburgh noted Mr Coulson's employment and volunteer work and stated that he was happy to grant this application.

### **Decision**

It was unanimously agreed to grant a Taxi Driver Licence to Mr Coulson.

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance and Law, submitted)