

**MINUTES of MEETING of PLANNING, PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND LICENSING  
COMMITTEE held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS on WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2024**

**Present:** Councillor Kieron Green (Chair)

Councillor John Armour	Councillor Graham Hardie
Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Fiona Howard
Councillor Amanda Hampsey	Councillor Andrew Kain
Councillor Daniel Hampsey	Councillor Peter Wallace

**Attending:** Stuart McLean, Committee Manager  
David Walker, Solicitor  
Laura Johnston, Applicant

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jan Brown, Audrey Forrest, Mark Irvine, Paul Kennedy, Liz McCabe and Dougie Philand.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982: APPLICATION FOR  
GRANT OF A TAXI CAR LICENCE (L JOHNSTON, DUNBEG, BY OBAN)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. In line with recent legislation for Civic Government Hearings, the party (and any representatives) were given the options for participating in the meeting today. The options available were by video call, by audio call or by written submission. For this hearing the Applicant opted to proceed by way of audio call and Laura Johnston joined the meeting by telephone.

The Chair outlined the procedure that would be followed and invited the Applicant to speak in support of her application.

**APPLICANT**

The Applicant advised she had been employed by Oban FM for 26 years prior to being made redundant in July 2024. She advised she had held a taxi licence since October 2018, and sometimes worked in the taxi in the evenings to supplement her earnings. The Applicant stated that as she did not want to be unemployed this was a great opportunity to become self-employed and work in her taxi full time.

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Councillor Green enquired if there was demand for another taxi in the Oban area and the Applicant confirmed that due to new housing and the expansion of the town there has been an increase in demand.

**SUMMING UP**

## **Applicant**

The Applicant stated that due to the rate that Oban is expanding there were lots of opportunities to be had and she believed becoming self-employed was an opportunity she should take.

Councillor Green sought and received confirmation that the Applicant felt she had received a fair hearing.

## **DEBATE**

The Committee were in agreement that the taxi licence should be granted.

## **DECISION**

The Committee unanimously agreed to grant a taxi car licence to Laura Johnston and noted that she would receive written confirmation of this within 7 days.

(Reference: Report by Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, submitted)