

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL NELSON  
ON 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011**

PRESENT -

*Councillor P. McCormick (Chairman – in the chair)*

**Councillors**

*M. Ashraf  
D. Clegg  
M. Horsfield  
M. Iqbal  
G. Roach  
G. Whittaker*



*The following persons attended and spoke at the meeting on the items indicated –*

<i>Mr. Akram Mr. Ilyas Mohammed Khan Mohammed Saghir County Councillor G Adam</i>	<i>Dress Codes for hackney Carriages and Private Hire Driver</i>	<i>Minute No. 4</i>
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<i>Mr. Akram Mr. Ilyas Mohammed Khan Mohammed Saghir Councillor G Adam</i>	<i>Results of Vehicles Failure</i>	<i>Minute No. 5</i>
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**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the Declaration of Interests.

**2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- (1) Mr. Ilyas asked why it was taking so long to put a rank outside the ACE Centre, Nelson. He explained that it had been over two years since the committee had agreed to move the rank further down.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that the Council were waiting for Lancashire County Councils Highways department to revoke the restricted waiting order and move the rank.

**RESOLVED**

## Taxi Licensing Committee (10.03.2011)

That the Engineering and Special Projects Manager be requested to write a letter to LCC Highway asking them to revoke the restricted waiting order as soon as possible so the rank can be moved to outside the ACE Centre, Nelson.

- (2) Mr. Saghir asked that the spot checks on vehicles take place on another night other than a Friday or Saturday as this was the trade's busiest period and taking vehicles off the road for testing was in some cases leaving operators short of cars.

The Chairman explained that the point of spot checks were to check as many vehicles as possible and these were done when most of the licensed vehicles were out on the road, which tended to be either a Friday or Saturday night.

- (3) Mr. Ilyas thought that all operators who had more than 1 trading name should have individual operator's licences and pay a fee for each one.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that an operator's licence was issued to the applicant who could have several trading names.

- (4) Mr Khan requested that if a vehicle had been taken of the road for more than a month and was within the age limit it should be allowed to be put back in the road.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that to licence a vehicle in accordance with the Council's age limit the vehicle must be continuously licensed. However, if the vehicle was being repaired and couldn't be renewed straight away 1 month was allowed. More time was allowed if the vehicle was involved in an accident and waiting to be repaired.

- (5) Mr Khan asked that all Hackney Carriages that operated from a base should have trading names on them even when working from the ranks.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that the trading names allowed on hackney carriages was working well and should not be changed.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the proceedings of this Committee at the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. DRESS CODE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report regarding the introduction of a dress code.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted and a dress code should not be introduced.

**5. RESULTS OF VEHICLE FAILURES**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted, for information, a list of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles which failed the Council's taxi test from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. Members expressed concerns at the number of vehicles that were failing the taxi tests and were particularly concerned that several vehicles were repeatedly failing.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting regarding details of vehicles that have failed the taxi test from 1<sup>st</sup> January to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 and 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
- (2) That the failure codes be re-categorised so that the numbers range from minor defects to serious ones.

**REASON**

*To inform members of which vehicles were failing and for what reasons and to improve the quality of the vehicles.*

**6. PROSECUTION**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported, for information, that a Harry Preston was found guilty of running a private hire business without an operator's licence, driving licence to vehicle licence. He was also found guilty of using a vehicle without insurance. He was fined £100, costs of £150 and a £15 victim surcharge. His driving licence was endorsed with eight penalty points.

**7. CONSULTATIVE MEETING**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager requested members to consider the introduction of consultative meetings with the taxi trade to be held every six months.

**RESOLVED**

That an hour meeting be arranged every six month before the Taxi Licensing Committee meeting.

**8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED**

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the ground that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.

9.

**INTERVIEWS**

(1) Kaiser Ali

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Ali.

**RESOLVED**

That Mr. Ali's application for a private hire driver's licence be refused.