

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2011**

PRESENT -

Councillor P. McCormick (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

M. Horsfield

M. Iqbal

G. Roach

K. Shore

(Apologies were received from Councillors, D. Clegg and J. Purcell.)



11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(1) Mr. Khan expressed concerns regarding the appointment system that was currently in place for testing vehicles. He felt that it was not working correctly and he was finding it difficult to book his vehicles in, between 9am and 5pm Mon – Fri, when they were on the ranks. Mr. Saeed asked if more tests could be done at the garages at weekends.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that it was decided to go back to the appointment system as it was easier to keep a track of the vehicles that were being tested. Reminders go out 4/6 weeks before the test is due, so there was ample time for the vehicles to be booked in. The Taxi Enforcement Officers explained that system had only been in place 2 weeks and they had not received any complaints from drivers.

The Chairman agreed that the system be reviewed in 3 months and be included on the agenda of the next Consultative meeting on 24th November 2011 for discussion.

Mr. Saeed also requested that VOSA MOT tests be included on the agenda of the Consultative meeting and 4 monthly tests for vehicles that have failed the test with a major fault.

The chairman agreed that both items would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of this Committee at meetings held on 16th June and 17th August, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. PENALTY POINT SCHEME

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report regarding the effectiveness of the penalty point scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the penalty point scheme remains.
- (2) That no penalty points be given for vehicles failing the Council's spot checks.

REASON

To enable the Taxi Licensing office to deal effectively with minor infringements by the licensing trade, and because vehicles failing spot checks will be dealt with by increasing the number of tests required each year.

15. 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 grounds 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.

16. INTERVIEWS

(a) Tassawar Abbas Shah

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Shah's be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence due to his convictions.

(b) Zia Rafiq

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Rafiq's application for a private hire driver's licence be granted for 6 months and if his driving and conduct has been exemplary during that period his licence be extended.

(c) Zulfiqar Ahmed

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

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RESOLVED

That Mr. Ahmed's be requested to attend a speed awareness course and that he be required to attend a speed awareness course during that 6 month period.

(d) Assalan Khan

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Khan's application for a private hire driver's licence be granted for 6 months and if his driving and conduct has been exemplary during that period his licence be extended.

(e) Rashid Mustafa

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

RESOVLED

That Mr. Mustafa's be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence due to his convictions.

(f) Kamran Ahmed

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ahmed's be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence due to his convictions.

(g) Arshad Ali

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ali's private hire driver's licence be suspended for 6 months and that he be requested to attend a drivers awareness course. This suspension shall have immediate effect in the interests of public safety under Section 61 (2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

(h) Abbas Ahmed

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ahmed's application for a private hire driver's licence be granted for 6 months and if his driving and conduct has been exemplary during that period his licence be extended.

17.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

Taxi Licensing Committee (21.09.2011)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (B)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the Chairman agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency as the testing of vehicles was not being carried out to the standards laid down by the Council and there was a conflict of interests as the vehicle examiner was driving for a Pendle taxi company.

18.

AUTOPOINT GARAGE

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported that vehicles which were being taken to Autopoint UK, Garden Street, Nelson were not being tested correctly to the Council standards and that the vehicles examiner was driving for a Pendle taxi company.

RESOLVED

That Autopoint UK be given 3 months notice of termination of their taxi testing contract.

REASON

The testing of vehicles is not being carried out to the standards laid down by the Council and there is a conflict of interests as the vehicle examiner is driving for a Pendle taxi company.