

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON MAY 28TH 2012**

PRESENT -

Councillor P. McCormick (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*A. Aziz
N. Butterworth
D. Clegg
J. Cooney
M. Iqbal
M. Sakib
J. Throupe*

(Apologies were received from Councillors M. Ashraf and K. Shore)



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

<i>Mr. C. Oakes Mr. Saeed Mr. Akram</i>	<i>Hackney Carriage Consultation Meeting</i>	<i>Minute No. 5</i>
<i>Mr. Saeed Mr. Akram</i>	<i>Penalty Point Scheme</i>	<i>Minute No. 6</i>
<i>Mr. Khan Mr. S. Ahmed Mr. Saeed Mr. Akram</i>	<i>Age Limit of Licensed Vehicles</i>	<i>Minute No. 7</i>
<i>Mr. Saeed Mr Akram</i>	<i>Vehicle Testing</i>	<i>Minute No. 8</i>
<i>Mr. Khan Mr. S. Ahmed Mr. Saeed Mr. Akram</i>	<i>Results of spot checks</i>	<i>Minutes No. 9</i>
<i>Mr. Khan Mr. Saeed</i>	<i>Private Hire vehicle application</i>	<i>Minute No. 12</i>

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

The following person declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item indicated -

Taxi Licensing Committee (28.05.2012)

Councillor N. Butterworth Interview 1. Muneer Ahmed Minute No. 13

Councillor D. Clegg Interview 7. Mohammed Saghir Ahmed Minute No. 13

Councillor D. Clegg Interview 8. Mohammed Khan Minute No. 13

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor D. Clegg be appointed Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2012/13.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(1) Mr. C. Oakes of the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association Ltd requested an urgent review of taxi ranks within Pendle. He explained that there were more hackney carriage vehicles than spaces and some ranks were not being used and needed to be moved.

The Taxi Licensing Manager asked that Mr. Oakes submit clarification of two locations he had submitted and a list of ranks to be removed as a report would need to go to the relevant area committees for consideration.

(2) Mr. Khan requested that previously licensed vehicles should be allowed to be re-licensed even if the licence had lapsed and therefore over the age limit. At present only one month from expiry of the licence was allowed.

The Chairman asked for a report to be submitted to the next meeting.

(3) Mr. Akram requested that the Taxi Licensing office be open longer hours as members of the trade were struggling to get to the office at present.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that the opening hours of the office were out of their control. Application forms could be downloaded from the website to avoid visiting the office and waiting to be dealt with..

The Chairman requested a report be submitted the Executive with the additional cost for extra staff to run the taxi department.

(4) Mr. Saeed asked for licences not to be taken off drivers should they get beaten up and have to defend themselves. The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that any driver charged with an offence of assault would have their licence suspended.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of this Committee at a meeting held on, March 8th 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. HACKNEY CARRIAGE CONSULTATIVE MEETING

The Engineering Special Projects Manager reported that a request had been made from the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association Ltd for regular consultation meeting to be held with the hackney carriage trade.

It was felt by the committee that if the consultative meetings were to take place they should include members of both the hackney carriage and private hire trade. It was also suggested that Officers need not attend the meetings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That consultative meetings were to resume with members of both the hackney carriage and private hire trade as and when required.
- (2) That Officers are not to attend the consultative meeting.

REASON

To ensure regular discussion take place with the trade.

6. PENALTY POINT SCHEME

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted for information, a report regarding penalty points which had been issued since 8th March 2012.

7. AGE LIMIT OF LICENSED VEHICLES

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report regarding a request to increase the age limit for licensed vehicles.

It was reported that at the last meeting of this Committee, members of the trade requested the age limit to be reviewed and the limit be extended to 10 years for private hire vehicles and 12 years for Hackney carriages.

RESOLVED

That no change be made to the existing age limit.

REASON

The age limit was previously considered by the Executive in July 2011 and it was agreed that to remove the existing age limit would see deterioration in the standard of licensed vehicles.

8. VEHICLE TESTING

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report regarding an amendment to the number of tests required for licensed vehicles.

It was reported that in September 2011 a policy was introduced where that if a vehicle failed the garage taxi test, spot check or school spot check, with one or more serious faults, the number of tests per year be increased from two to three and they revert to a four month license. This condition would stay for the duration of the life of the vehicle whilst it was a licensed vehicle.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive be recommended to remove the requirement for a vehicle to have a four month test and license should a vehicle pass the following three taxi tests with no faults in any section.

REASON

To enable vehicle owners to improve the standard of vehicles over the duration of the licence.

9. RESULTS OF A SPOT CHECK

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported, for information that a joint spot check on licensed vehicles was carried out on the evening of Friday 11th May, 2012 at Norfolk Street Garage with the Police and Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA). Eighteen vehicles were tested in total with eleven of those being taken off the road due to faults with tyres, suspension and braking.

10. KNOWLEDGE TEST

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported, for information that the knowledge test questions had been updated and a new computerised test will commence on 1st June 2012.

11. 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.

12. PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE APPLICATION

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a reported regarding an application for a private vehicle application which departs from the Council's age limit policy.

RESOLVED

That the private hire vehicle licence be issued and back dated to 20th April 2012.

13. INTERVIEWS

(Councillor N. Butterworth declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and withdrew from the meeting)

1) Muneer Ahmed

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ahmed 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.

2) Nadir Ali

Taxi Licensing Committee (28.05.2012)

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ali be granted a 6 month temporary private hire drivers licence and that he be requested to attend a drug awareness course within 6 months.

3) Kamran Bhatti

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Bhatti 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.

4) Karamat Ali

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

RESOVLED

That Mr. Ali's suspension of his hackney carriage driver's licence be lifted and monitored for next 6 months.

5) Taslim Hussian

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

RESOLVED

That this item be deferred until the next meeting.

6) Ammer Naveed

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

RESOLVED

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

7) Mohammed Saghir Ahmed

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

RESOLVED

That the suspension of Mr. Ahmed's private hire driver's licence be lifted until 1st August 2012.

(Councillor D. Clegg declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and withdrew from the meeting)

8) Mr. Khan

Taxi Licensing Committee (28.05.2012)

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

RESOLVED

That this item be deferred for 4 weeks.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

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, the grounds that information had been received regarding the drivers convictions.

(Councillor D. Clegg declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and withdrew from the meeting)

14. INTERVIEW

The Taxi Licensing Manager gave a verbal report in respect of Mr. Fakhar Zaman.

RESOLVED

That the suspension of Mr. Zaman's private hire driver's licence be lifted and he be given 14 penalty points for not declaring a conviction.

Chairman: _____