

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

PRESENT -

Councillor D. Clegg (Vice Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*T. Beckett
N. Butterworth
J. Cooney
M. Iqbal
J. Throupe
N. Younis*

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



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

<i>Mr. C. Oakes</i>	<i>Vehicle Application</i>	<i>Minute No. 26</i>
<i>Mr. Saeed</i>		
<i>Mr. Akram</i>		

20. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

21. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Khan felt that he was running backwards and forward between the garage and the taxi licensing office and wasn't aware that a re-test could be done on a Saturday. He explained that he had tried to book his vehicle in for a re-test on the Monday and no-one answered the phone and he thought the taxi office opening hours were not long enough. He also had a concern that his vehicle failed due to the radio being missing and thought this was unnecessary.

The Taxi Enforcement Officer explained that Saturday re-tests had always been available. The Monday when he had tried to contact the office was particular busy and when Mr. Khan came into the office a taxi test was booked in for him straight away on the same day. He also said that he would look into Mr. Khan's complaint about the vehicle failing the test due to the missing radio.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that that office was open Monday to Friday from 11.00am until 2.30pm and that staff often stayed later so a vehicle could be licensed especially on Friday afternoons.

A driver explained that he had taken his vehicle for an MOT and it had passed, he then he took it to the garage for a taxi test and on the way the CV strap must have worked loose and the vehicle then failed. Why were the garages failing cars that had passed their MOT test?

The Taxi Enforcement Officer explained that the garages could only test what is presented to them and it was unfortunate that this happened on the way. If the trade had a problem with a specific

garage they had been told to raise it with the Taxi Licensing Department through their complaints procedure or they could ask for a second opinion and the vehicle could be re-tested.

Mr Oakes made reference to a decision made by members of this committee at the meeting held on 28th May 2012 where it was resolved that consultative meetings were to resume with both the

hackney carriage and the private hire trade and no officers be present. He was of the opinion that it was incorrect to hold consultative meetings without officers present and if it was the intention of the Council not to consult with the trade he would happily challenge this matter in court.

Councillor Iqbal explained that the reason the committee agreed to hold the meetings without officer present was at the last consultative meeting a number of drivers attended and instead of discussing issues made personal attacks towards Council Officers. He also stated that members thought the trade would speak more freely without Officers present.

22. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of this Committee at a meeting held on, 9th July 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23. HEARING PROCEDURE

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report regarding the procedures for hearings.

RESOLVED

That not changes be made to the hearing procedure.

REASON

To make sure that all parties to a hearing are aware of the procedure which the committee will use.

24. OFFENCES DEFINITIONS

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report regarding the definitions of various types of criminal offence which are commonly referred to in report to this committee.

25. DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported that a request had been made from a Councillor for members to consider introducing compulsory training for all drivers which carry wheelchair users in their vehicles.

The Law Commission is undertaking a reform on the Law of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles and one of their suggestions was that all drivers would be required to have disability awareness training to deal with people with disabilities.

RESOLVED

That this be deferred until the draft bill and final proposals on Reforming the Law of Taxis and Private Hire Services is published in November 2013.

26. VEHICLE APPLICATION

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report which asked members to consider that should an application for a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence be treated as a new application once the renewal date had passed.

RESOLVED

That an application for the late renewal of a vehicle licence continues to be accepted no more than one month from the licence expiry date.

REASON

To enable vehicle owners a reasonable amount of time in which to get vehicle licences renewed.

27. 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.

28. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCE

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submits a report which asked members to consider an application to renew a hackney carriage licence beyond the nine year age limit.

RESOVLED

That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

29. INTERVIEWS

1) Mr Mohammed Saghir Ahmed

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

RESOLVED

That having heard representation 10 penalty points be given but suspended for six months.

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2) Mr Mohammed Azam Chaudary

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

RESOLVED

That having heard representation twelve penalty point be given due to being caught using his mobile phone whilst driving on three separate occasions.

3) Mr. Israr Alam

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

RESOLVED

That Mr Alam be granted a Private Hire Drivers Licence.

4) Mr Waheed Afzal Chaudhry

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

RESOLVED

That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

5) Mr Fakhar Zaman

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect Mr. Zaman where it was reported that at the meeting of this Committee held on 28th May 2012 Mr. Zaman was given 14 penalty points. It was reported that the number of points set for not disclosing a conviction was 10 and members were asked to reconsiders the number of points awarded.

RESOLVED

That the number of points awarded be rescinded to 9.

Chairman: _____