

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 17th JANUARY 2013**

PRESENT -

Councillor P. McCormick (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*D. Clegg
N. Butterworth
J. Cooney
M. Iqbal
M. Sakib*

(Apologies were received from Councillor K. Shore)

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

<i>Mr. Oakes</i>	<i>Spot Checks</i>	<i>Minute No. 41</i>
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38. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

39. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr. Oakes, Chairman of the Hackney Carriage Association asked the following questions

- (1) Will the Council agree to extend the opening times of the Taxi Licensing Office to 9am-16.30 pm Monday to Friday?

The Chairman explained that due to the current budget cuts the Council was unlikely to extend the opening times as it would involve employing another member of staff. However, it was suggested that as the Taxi Licensing Department was a self funded department, wholly financed from fee income, the Engineering and Special Projects Manager be requested to submit a report to the next meeting regarding the cost of employing another member of staff for 10-15 hours a week and the cost implications of extending the opening hours of the Taxi Licensing Department generally, including any implications there might be for fee increases to cover the cost of this.

- (2) Will the Council agree to hold informal consultative meetings with the Hackney trade and for officers to attend?

Members said that they were happy to hold consultative meeting with all the trade not just the Hackney Carriage Association.

- (3) Will the Council increase the amount of enforcement regarding drivers unlawfully plying for hire?

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that they were working closely with the Police to tackle unlawful plying for hire. Both day and evening enforcement operations were to take place and that

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pub car parks were also being targeted. Warning letters had gone out to all the trade about this issue.

Mr. S. Ahmed requested a full breakdown of the Taxi Licensing accounts and also mention the unlawful plying for trade by private hire drivers.

The Taxi Licensing Manager said she would email Mr. Ahmed with the accounts.

40. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of this Committee at a meeting held on 29th November 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

41. SPOT CHECKS

The Engineering and Special Projects Manger submitted a report regarding the results of a spot check that had taken place on 7th December 2012.

RESOVLED

That the report be noted.

REASON

To improve the standard of licensed vehicles with the Borough.

42. HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANK ON CROSS STREET

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported that arrangements had been made for the taxi rank on Cross Street, Nelson to be removed and replaced with an evening rank for two vehicles. The approximate costs of this work would be £500 with additional costs for new signage.

43. 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.

44. INTERVIEWS

(1) Iqrar Hussain Shah

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

RESOLVED

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1. That Mr. Shah's private hire operator's licence be suspended until the Council receives a written assurance in a form acceptable to the Council that the business will operate in compliance with all legal requirements and remove all risks to the public, as he is not at present a fit and proper person to hold such a licence.
2. That Mr. Shah's private hire driver's licence be suspended until the Council receives a written assurance in a form acceptable to the Council that the business will operate in compliance with all legal requirements and remove all risks to the public, as he is not at present a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. It appeared to the Committee that the interests of public safety required this suspension to have immediate effect.
3. That Mr. Shah's seven private hire vehicle licences be suspended until the Council receives a written assurance in a form acceptable to the Council that the business will operate in compliance with all legal requirements and remove all risks to the public, as he is not at present a fit and proper person to hold such licences.
4. That any further applications to operate No.1 and Express be considered by this Committee.

(2) Mohammed Ashraf

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

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ashraf's application for a private hire drivers licence be granted.

(3) Azar Ali

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

RESOLVED

That Mr Ali's licence be revoked on the ground that Mr Ali is not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence. It appeared to the Committee that the interests of public safety required this revocation to have immediate effect.

(4) Waheed Afzal Chaudhry

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

RESOLVED

That the application be refused on the ground that Mr Chaudhry is not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence.

(5) Mohammed Ansar

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

RESOLVED

That Mr Ansar be granted a private hire driver's licence for a period of 6 months. If during that period there are no issues regarding Mr Ansar's conduct as a private hire driver, then the licence be made permanent at the end of that period.

(6) Mohammed Khan

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

RESOLVED

Taking into account all the matters referred to in the Taxi Licensing Officer's Report to the Committee:

1. That Mr. Khan's private hire operator's licence be revoked, as he is not a fit and proper person to hold such a licence.
2. That Mr. Khan's private hire driver's licence be revoked, as he is not a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. It appeared to the Committee that the interests of public safety required this suspension to have immediate effect.
3. That Mr. Khan's hackney carriage driver's licence be revoked, as he is not a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. It appeared to the Committee that the interests of public safety required this suspension to have immediate effect.
4. That a further 8 penalty points be given to Mr. Khan under the Council's Taxi Penalty points scheme.
5. That any further applications to operate A1, Spedline, AAA, 24/7, BP and Max Private Hire should be considered by this Committee.

Chairman: _____