

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
TAXI AND OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON  
ON 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

PRESENT -

*Councillor N. Butterworth (Chairman – in the chair)*

**Councillors**

*M. Arshad  
D. Clegg  
Y. Iqbal (Substitute for M. Iqbal)  
C. Jowett  
G. Roach  
K. Shore  
J. Starkie (Substitute for J. Cooney)*

*Officers in attendance*

<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Solicitor</i>
<i>Jackie Allen</i>	<i>Taxi Licencing Manager</i>
<i>Sarah Waterworth</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

*(Apologies were received from Councillors J. Cooney and M. Iqbal)*



**15. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

**16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Oakes asked the following:-

- (1) With regards to the Ombudsman finding fault with the fee for a re test, has the council refunded any of the fees paid?

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that a letter would be going out asking for a copy of the receipt and the fee would be refunded.

- (2) Did the Council have a policy with regards to dealing with vehicles which were over the age limit and if not would members agree to introduce one?

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that there was no specific policy regarding extending the age limit but the applicant could submit an application stating the exceptional circumstance in which the licence was to be extended and a decision made in consultation with the chairman.

- (3) How many drivers have been prosecuted for unlawfully plying for hire since the policy had been changed?

The Taxi Licensing Manager stated that members agreed not to prosecute but to impose a 4 week suspension.

- (4) In 2014 the Chairman gave an undertaking to review the Taxi Licensing Department, had this taken place?

The Chairman explained that a restructure of the whole council had taken place and would be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. The Taxi Licensing Department would fall under the responsibility of the Planning and Building Control Manager.

- (5) What was the Taxi Licensing Department going to do regarding the impact of the Deregulation Bill as driver's license would be extended to 3 years and operators to 5 years?

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that the Bill had not been implemented yet and drivers could at present have a license for 3 years.

- (6) Was there to be an increase in the taxi fees and charged proposed in the budget for 2015/16?

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that there would be no change to the fees and charges for 2015/16.

## **17. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Taxi and Other Licensing Committee at meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

## **18. RESULTS OF A SPOT CHECK**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager reported that a joint spot check on licensed vehicles was carried out on the evening of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Macadams, Colne with the Police and Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA). Nineteen vehicles were tested in total with three taken off the road for faults and six issued with defect notices. A list of vehicles tested and faults was submitted for information.

## **19. PENALTY POINTS SCHEME**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted, for information, a report regarding penalty points which had been imposed since the last meeting.

## **20. RESULTS OF APPEALS**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted for information a report regarding results of appeals since the last meeting.

## **21. 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.

**22. INTERVIEWS**

**(1) Report on SH**

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

**RESOLVED**

That the application be deferred.

**(2) Report on FM**

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

**RESOLVED**

That FM's application for the renewal of his private hire driver's licence be refused.

**REASON**

***The licence holder had, since the grant of the licence, been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency or violence.***

**(3) Report of JA**

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of JA

**RESOLVED**

That JA's private hire driver's licence be revoked with immediate effect.

**REASON**

***The licence holder had, since the grant of the licence, been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency or violence.***

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_