

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI AND OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 11TH NOVEMBER, 2015**

PRESENT -

Councillor N. Butterworth (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*N. Ahmed (substitute for D. Clegg)
M. Ammer (substitute for M. Arshad)
M. Iqbal
G. Roach
K. Shore
J. Starkie (substitute for J. Cooney)
P. White (substitute for C. Jowett)*

Officers in attendance

<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager</i>
<i>Jackie Allen</i>	<i>Taxi Licensing Manager</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Solicitor</i>
<i>Sarah Waterworth</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

(Apologies were received from Councillor M. Arshad, D. Clegg, J. Cooney and C. Jowett)

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23. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

24. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(1) Mr S. Ahmed made reference to the food hygiene standards ratings and suggested something similar be done for taxis which could incorporate results of spot checks and MOTs, customer satisfaction, safety of driver, cleanliness of vehicle.

The Chairman said that this would be a good incentive for drivers to keep their vehicles in good order. He said he would investigate the idea further.

(2) Mr S. Ahmed asked if instead of having to produce documents at the Taxi Office could they be scanned in and sent and payments be made directly into the councils account.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that there would be no way of tracing payments if paid directly into the council's accounts and the process of online applications was being looked at as a new software system had been installed which would allow this.

- (3) Mr Akram asked if vehicles could be tested after 5pm as it was easier for the drivers to go to the garages after this time.

The Taxi Licensing Officer explained that Officers needed to be on duty while the vehicles were being tested in case any failed as it was only an appropriate Officer of the council who was authorised to remove the plates.

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Taxi and Other Licensing meeting held on 17th September, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

26. RESULTS OF APPEALS

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted for information a report of the results of appeals since the last meeting.

27. PENALTY POINTS SCHEME

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted for information a report regrading penalty points which had been imposed since the last meeting.

28. 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.

30. RENEWAL OF TAXI TESTING CONTRACTS

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report which asked member to consider renewing the contract for another two years

RESOLVED

- (1) That the taxi Testing Contracts be put out to Tender.
- (2) That the contract be awarded to a maximum of five garages.

REASON

To ensure that taxis are tested to a high standard.

31. INTERVIEWS

- (1) Report of AN

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report regarding AN.

RESOLVED

That AN's application for a private hire drivers licence be refused.

(2) Report of NA

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report regarding NA.

RESOLVED

That NA's private hire vehicle licence not be revoked.

(3) Report of AA

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report regarding AA.

RESOLVED

That the application be deferred and a special meeting be arranged where AA's solicitor is present.

Taxi Licensing Committee (11.11.2015)

Chairman: _____