

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A
SPECIAL TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 9TH OCTOBER 2023**

PRESENT –

*His Worship the Mayor Councillor B. Newman
Councillor F. Ahmad – (Chair)*

Councillors

*N. Ashraf
N. Butterworth
K. McGladdery
K. Salter*

Also present

Councillor M. Iqbal

Officers present

<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services</i>
<i>Jackie Allen</i>	<i>Taxi Licensing Manager</i>
<i>Emma Barker</i>	<i>Legal Services Manager</i>
<i>Lynne Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Strickland.)



The following persons attended the meeting and spoke on the item indicated –

<i>Mr Akram</i>	<i>Taxi Safety and Measures to Improve Public Safety</i>	<i>Minute No.10</i>
<i>Mr Saeed</i>		

14. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the trade referred to a petition that had been submitted to the last meeting of the Committee which notified the Council that Mr Charles Oakes of the Hackney Drivers Association Ltd was not a representative of their trade and that the Council should not discuss Pendle hackney matters with him. It was noted that Mr Oakes had been present at the recent Taxi Licensing Task and Finish Group meeting and it was asked why this had been allowed.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services explained that it had been established that Mr Oakes represented over 60 members of the trade and should not be excluded from discussions.

16. TAXI SAFETY AND MEASURES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

(a) Task and Finish Group

The notes of a meeting of the Committee's Task and Finish Group held on 27th September 2023 were submitted for information.

(b) Proposed Measures to Improve Taxi Safety

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report for Members to consider the issues surrounding the high failure rates of taxis during spot checks and proposed measures to see improvement.

The proposed measures were recommended to address the significant mechanical defects found in vehicles; compel improvements in order to safeguard the public; and to improve a driver's knowledge of vehicle maintenance, whilst also maintaining consistency of testing from the approved garages; easing the administration work for the Council and vehicle proprietors; addressing the concerns of the trade that the points issued were proportionate to the severity of the infringement; and to reward vehicle proprietors that did maintain their vehicles.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That two unannounced spot checks take place in the next 3-4 months in conjunction with the Police and other agencies and the results reported back to a future meeting of the Taxi Licensing Committee.
- (3) That the Committee review the results of the spot checks and agree a way forward in consultation with the trade and other interested parties.
- (4) That details of taxi spot check failure rates from councils across Lancashire be provided to a future meeting, along with the sanctions in place for persistent vehicles failing.

REASON

To assess if there has been any improvement in vehicle safety since the last spot check in October 2022.

CHAIR _____