

**LICENSING BOARD
26 JANUARY 2004**

Present: Councillors Charlesworth, Cooke (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Lock), Daniel (in the Chair), Hancock and Rushbrook (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Scott)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lock and Scott

43. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2003 be approved as a true record.

44. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt' information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
47(E)	Licensed Driver Accumulating Excess Penalty Points	12A
48(E)	Initial Application For Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence With Current Convictions	12A

45. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

The Executive Director, Environment and Safety, submitted a report regarding an application from the Hastings & St Leonards Licensed Taxi Cab Association for a reduction in the yardage of Tariff 1 and an alteration to the initial fare for Tariff 3.

Mr Wallace, Secretary of the Hastings & St Leonards Licensed Taxi Cab Association, attended the meeting and spoke in support of the application.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that:

- 1. yardage measurements be altered from 175 yards to 176 yards;**

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2. initial fares be increased as follows - Tariff 1 from £2.00 to £2.10, Tariff 2 from £2.60 to £2.70 and Tariff 3 from £2.30 to £2.50;
3. Council officers and the Hastings & St Leonards Licensed Taxi Cab Association to be asked to agree a formula for the next increase of fares; and
4. the proposed increases will not take effect until 1 April 2004

46. CHANGE OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE CONDITIONS

The Executive Director, Environment and Safety, submitted a report regarding recent changes in the mechanical inspection of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

The contract to test hackney carriage and private hire vehicles was removed from Onyx in November 2003. Investigation revealed a lack of interest from the motor trade in taking over this contract. The report stated that a number of authorities do not carry out separate inspections but relied on MOTs and it was suggested that the Council did the same. It was proposed that the licence fee be reduced by £20 per vehicle in compensation for the fact that the owners be required to pay the MOT charges themselves

RESOLVED – that:

1. vehicles up to three years old be required to have one MOT per year and vehicles over three years old be required to have two MOTs per year, the second being between the fifth and seventh month (by 4 votes to 1);
2. the license fee be reduced by £20 (by 4 votes to 0);
3. vehicle owners to be free to choose which garage they take their vehicle to for the MOT (4 votes to 1);
4. the necessary changes to the conditions and handbook, as detailed in the 'revised conditions and background papers' be approved (unanimously); and
5. the trade be notified accordingly (unanimously).

47(E). LICENSED DRIVER ACCUMULATING EXCESS PENALTY POINTS

The Executive Director, Environment and Safety, submitted a report regarding a licensed driver who had accumulated excess penalty points.

The driver was present at the meeting and addressed the Board.

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RESOLVED (unanimously) that the driver's hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licence be revoked due to the fact that the Board did not consider the driver to be a fit and proper person to continue to hold a licence in the interests of public safety for the following reasons:

1. the driver's recent motoring offences;
2. the offences had occurred whilst driving a private hire vehicle; and
3. the driver's own admission that he continued to drive at an unsafe and dangerous speed.

48(E). INITIAL APPLICANT FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCE WITH CURRENT CONVICTIONS

The Executive Director, Environment and Safety, submitted a report regarding an application for an initial hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence. The applicant had current convictions.

The driver was present at the meeting and addressed the Board in support of his application.

RESOLVED - that:

1. The applicant be refused a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence as the Board did not consider him to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence in the interests of public safety for the following reasons:
 - a) his previous convictions for offences of dishonesty;
 - b) his recent conviction for driving whilst disqualified; and
 - c) his failure to declare his non-motoring offences on his application form (unanimously)
2. The Board would not wish to consider another application from the applicant before November 2004 (by 4 votes to 0)

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm)