

**LICENSING BOARD
28 MAY 2003**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Scott

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 19 March and 7 May 2003 be approved.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillor declared an interest in the minutes as indicated:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Hancock	7(E)	Personal

3. 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>
7(E)	Initial Application for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers' Licence with Current Convictions – DR090	4

4. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

The Head of Environment and Highways submitted a report relating to an application from the Hastings and St Leonards Licensed Taxi-cab Association to alter the start and finish time of tariff 2 charges and increase tariff 4 charges over the Christmas and New Year periods.

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The Head of Finance had been consulted and he had no adverse comments to make on the matter.

Licensing officers supported the proposals as they recognised that it was difficult to get sufficient drivers to work over the Christmas and New Year periods and that these were also times of high demand by the public.

Mr Wallace from the Hastings and St Leonards Licensed Taxi-cab Association was present at the meeting and spoke in support of the proposals.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that:

- 1. an alteration in the start/finish times of tariff 2 be approved as follows:**

**Christmas Eve: from 23.00 – 05.00 Christmas Day
to 19.00 – 05.00**

**New Years Eve: from 23.00 – 0700 2 January
to 19.00 – 0700**

- 2. Tariff 4 (Christmas Day and Boxing Day) be increased from an initial fare of £3.80, then 100% increase on unit charge, to an initial fare of £4.00 then 100% increase on unit charge; and**
- 3. the proposed changes be published in the local press and any unresolved objections received be reported to a future meeting of the Licensing Board.**

5. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE HANDBOOK

The Head of Environment and Highways submitted a report regarding proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Handbook. Consultation regarding the proposed changes had been carried out with the Hackney Carriage Association, Hastings Borough Council Legal Services, all Private Hire Operators and any driver/owner who wished to be consulted.

Mr Wallace from the Hastings and St Leonards Licensed Taxi-cab Association was present at the meeting and spoke in support of the amendments proposed to the Handbook.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that:

- 1. the revised conditions, including alterations suggested by the Board, be recommended to Cabinet for adoption; and**
- 2. Cabinet be asked to give officers delegated authority to make any changes to the handbook of a re-wording or minor nature.**

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After consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair any significant changes to the handbook to be brought before the Licensing Board for decision.

6. APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT FOR THE PROVISION OF AMUSEMENTS WITH PRIZES (AWP) – NEW ALPHA CARS – THE FORECOURT, WARRIOR SQUARE RAILWAY STATION, KINGS ROAD, ST LEONARDS ON SEA

The Head of Environment and Highways submitted a report regarding an application from New Alpha Cars for an Amusements with Prizes (AWP) Permit under the Gaming Act 1968. This permit was for the siting of two gaming machines in the waiting room of their private hire office for use by the public while they were waiting for a vehicle.

Currently gaming machines in Hastings were confined to amusement arcades, other places of entertainment (such as bingo halls) and premises where hot food is consumed on the premises.

Mr Catt and Mr Wilder, operators of New Alpha Cars, were present at the meeting and spoke in support of their application.

The Board considered the application on its merits and took into account the fact that the waiting room provided other facilities such as seating, toilets and refreshments.

The applicants gave a voluntary undertaking that clear signage would be provided with the machines stating that they were for use by over 18's only.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that an Amusements With Prizes Permit be granted for the siting of two machines.

7(E). INITIAL APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS' LICENCE WITH CURRENT CONVICTIONS – DR090

Councillor Hancock declared a personal interest as he had taught the driver when he had been at school. The driver stated that he did not have any objections to Councillor Hancock dealing with the application.

The Head of Environment and Highways submitted a report regarding an application that had been made for a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers' Licence by a driver with two current convictions. These convictions had been declared on the drivers' application form.

The driver was present and spoke in support of his application.

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RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the application for a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers' Licence for driver DR090 be granted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.47pm)