

# **LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2012 AT 6.00 P.M.**

**In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Sears (Chairman)  
Councillor Clarke (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Anson  
Councillor Burley  
Councillor Cook  
Councillor Douglas-Maul  
Councillor Hussain  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor Rochelle  
Councillor Russell  
Councillor Sarohi

## **1421/12 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Carpenter, Harrison, and Wilkes

## **1422/12 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 February, 2012, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **1423/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **1424/12 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

### **Resolved**

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

**Reference from Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group from its meeting held on 14 March, 2012**

“Proposed changes in Hackney Carriage Tariff”

**Resolved to recommend** to Licensing and Safety Committee

- (1) That the revised tariff card include an increase of £1.00 per person for any passengers up to 8 carried;
- (2) That the price charge at might be increased from 13p to 15p.

The report of the Interim Regulatory Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Principal Licensing Officer (Mr. Knapper) enlarged upon the report and drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 3.4 of the report showing the current fare tariff for hackney carriage vehicles and Paragraph 3.5 which showed the proposed fare increases. He also drew attention to Appendix 1 which showed a comparison of the hackney carriage fare charges by neighbouring local authorities. The proposed increases would bring Walsall broadly into line with its neighbours.

Mr Knapper referred to Appendix 2 to the report which showed a revised fare card to be provided in hackney carriage vehicles if the increase was approved. He added that the proposed increase would need to be advertised in a local newspaper so that members of the public could object to the fare rise giving reasons for their objections.

Councillor Rochelle referred to the fact that the last fare increase had taken place some years ago so the proposed increase was justified in view of the rises in fuel cost and insurance premiums.

Councillor Clarke was concerned that an increase from £3.60 to £4.30 for the first mile might be counter productive and asked if the trade would accept an increase of £4.00 for the first mile.

Councillor Burley was also concerned that the proposed increase might discourage people from visiting Walsall and could also damage the night time economy of the town.

Councillor Hussain concurred with Councillor Rochelle that the increase in fuel cost and insurance premiums meant that fares had to rise if drivers were to make a living from the trade. He added that as the proposed increases were largely in line with those of neighbouring authorities the request should be approved.

Councillor Anson asked if the fare increases related only to hackney carriage vehicles. Mr Knapper confirmed that they did. He added that the local authority had no control over charges made by private hire companies.

Councillor Douglas-Maul expressed concern that the proposed fare increases could result in the trade pricing itself out of the market. However, as the drivers themselves were happy with the proposals he would be prepared to support the proposed increase in fares.

After further discussion it was

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the request made by Walsall Hackney Carriage Association for an increase/amendment to the charges in relation to the Hackney Carriage fares as contained in Paragraph 3.5 of the report now submitted be approved;
- and
- (2) That the new fare card as given in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed.

## **1426/12 Private Section**

### **Exclusion of Public**

### **Resolved**

That, during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Committee considers that the items for consideration are exempt information for the reasons set out there in and resolved to consider Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 and accordingly those items in private.

### **Summary of items considered in private session**

## **1427/12 Licence Vehicle Testing Frequency**

The Committee approved the frequency of MOT testing for all licensed vehicles over 3 years of age.

1428/12      **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Application for Discrete Plate/Identification Stickers on Private Hire Vehicle.**

The Committee determined the application.

1429/12      **Licensing Act 2003-Section 90 – Club Premises Certificate**

The Committee determined the club premises certificate.

1430/12      **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – Sex Establishment License Renewal**

The Committee granted the renewal application.

#### **Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.22 p.m.