

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE SUB COMMITTEE  
19 MAY 1999**

Present: Councillors Beadsley, Blatchford, Mrs Clifford, Egan, Mrs Pile

Apologies for Absence were received from:  
Councillor Veakins.

1. **Election of Chairman**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Egan be elected Chairman of the Hackney Carriage Sub Committee for the municipal year 1999/00.

**COUNCILLOR EGAN IN THE CHAIR**

2. **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Pile be appointed Vice Chairman of the Hackney Carriage Sub Committee for the municipal year 1999/00.

3. **Substitute Members**

The Committee noted the attendance of the following substitute member under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Mrs Clifford for Councillor Veakins.

4. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 24 February 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Proposed Tariff Increase (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee considered a report detailing the proposed tariff increases for Hackney Carriages. It was noted that the last tariff increase took place on Monday 21 September 1998 and amounted to 10p a mile. Increases in fuel costs, road fund licence and licensing costs within Bracknell Forest were considered. Inflation figures issued by the Government for the last 12 months, which include factors such as increases in petrol duty, showed an inflation rate of 2.1%.

A survey was carried out among drivers regarding Tariff increases. It was responded to by 78 drivers. 38 drivers questioned wished for an increase of 40p in the drop rate and other options were no change or 10p per mile. It was felt that increasing the drop rate would penalise shorter journeys.

It was reported the present system of reviewing Tariff Charges should be reviewed in consultation with the Trade, as there were now a number of financial indicators

produced to assist with the process. An agreement could be made for tariffs to rise in line with the indicators for a period of time, after which an evaluation of the arrangement could be made.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the proposed change in tariff be effective from Monday 20 September 1999, as follows:
  - a) If the distance does not exceed 1000 yards for the whole distance - £2.00; and
  - b) For each subsequent 155 yards or uncompleted part thereof – 10p.
- (ii) the proposed increase in tariff charges be advertised; and
- (iii) any objections received within 14 days of the publication of the advertisement be reported to the Sub Committee at its next meeting on 8 September for consideration; and
- (iv) discussions take place with the Trade with a view to producing a formula based on financial indicators whereby increases in the tariff can be calculated by reference to those indicators on an annual basis.

#### **6. Hackney Carriage Licence Applications (Item 2)**

The Sub Committee considered a report introducing a scoring system for issuing Hackney Carriage Licence Plates. This would assist with the process of issuing Hackney Carriage Plates, as a minimum amount of points would be required. The point scoring system would be devised in consultation with the local Trade to whom it would be applied. This method for selection of Hackney Carriage Licence Plates would need to be fair, transparent and easy to apply for.

**RESOLVED** that the Sub Committee agreed:

- (i) a scoring system be developed by which applications for Hackney Carriage Licences could be judged;
- (ii) the proposals be put to the representatives from the trade licensed within Bracknell Forest; and
- (iii) a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub Committee upon the results of that discussion prior to the implementation of any changes.

#### **7. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Annual Report 1998/99 (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee considered the annual report for 1998/99. It was reported that 122 Hackney Carriage vehicle licences had been issued during the period April 1998 to March 1999. One licence had been returned to the Borough Council during the course of the year and also 2 licences for wheelchair accessible vehicles. 7 licences were transferred to new owners and 34 vehicles substituted during the licensing year.

237 Dual Drivers licences have been issued for the year 1999/2000 of which 63 were for a period of 3 years.

122 Private Hire Licences were issued for the period April 1998 to March 1999. The number of licences reduced to 73 by the end of the licensing year due to vehicles being de-licensed.

21 Warning Notices and 77 Stop Notices were served in accordance with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire guidance notes for Drivers and Operators, during the period 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999. 15 Stop Notices were issued for accident damage, 15 for awaiting production of insurance, 10 for Hackney Carriage inspection failures, 28 for no MOT Certificates, 3 for unsafe vehicles (tyres), 4 for failure to present vehicle for inspection, 1 for stolen vehicle and 1 for no Vehicle Excise Licence.

It was noted that the last year had been one of change for the Hackney Carriage licensing function and officers had responded extremely well to these changes and risen to the challenges posed.

It was reported that there would be an enforcement focus this year on unlicensed private hire activity as this threatened the lives of passengers and created an inequitable trading environment. Working outside of normal hours had now become a regular feature of the work of the Hackney Carriage function.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the annual report be received; and
- (ii) the Sub Committee would like to thank all officers involved in the Hackney Carriage function.

**8. Information Items**

The Sub Committee noted the following items submitted for information only:

- (i) Minutes of Hackney Carriage Trade Meetings (Item 4)
- (ii) Mobility Roadshow (Item 5)

**9. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Item 6 which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (12) Information and advice relating to possible legal proceedings (Item 6)

10. **Information Item**

The Sub Committee noted the following item containing exempt information which was submitted for information only:

Home to School Transport Update

(Item 6)

The meeting commenced 5.30pm and concluded at 7.10pm

**CHAIRMAN**