

Minutes of Hackney Carriage Meeting – 28th May 2015

Present

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| Carol Stos | Licensing Manager |
| Geoff Binnington | Principal Officer, Fleet and Transport Services |
| Matthew Bibby | Licensing Support Officer (Minute Taker) |
| Steve Knighton | Enforcement Officer |
| Simon D'vali | Highways (Bradford Council) |
| Shabbir Master | Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association |
| Shabir Munir | Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association |
| Tahir Riaz | Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association |
| Mohammad Khan | Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association |
| Zulfiqar Ali | Keighley and Bradford Taxi Driver's Association |

Apologies

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| Shabir Ahmed | Keighley and Bradford Taxi Driver's Association |
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Welcome and Introductions

Representatives were welcomed and the meeting opened at 10.30am.

Highways Officer – Ranks Procedure and Update

The correct process for requesting ranks was clarified - requests are sent to HC/PH service on the agreed proforma. The HC/PH Service logs the application, comments as required and issues to Highways for consideration and action as appropriate. Communication between Highways Officers and Reps may take place depending on the nature of the application. Highways respond to HC/PH service for discussion at their next Reps meeting. If Reps are unhappy with Highways Officers responses they then address their concerns direct to Highways.

The district is split into different areas, each having its own Highways officer. Simon D'Vali covers Bradford North, which includes Keighley, Bingley, Windhill, Wrose, Haworth, Burley in Wharfedale, and Ilkley.

Discussions took place around Bingley; Bridge Street and the stations at Keighley and Ilkley. HC trade feel that there is a disadvantage to them at train stations as the land is privately owned and therefore HC can't use the locations to maximum potential. Their vehicles are hidden, not visible to train users. Simon D'Vali explained that this was private land. Simon suggested better signposting to highlight nearby HC locations.

Simon D'Vali explained that decisions on ranks, in some areas, are made by elected members and not by officers. Clear actions were identified moving forwards:

Action: Simon will report back to area committee with HC representatives present to make their business case.

Action: The old rank near Bingley Swimming Baths can be requested as being reopened.

Action: Simon to look into the possibility of a rank outside Kings Hall at Ilkley Station. This was agreed as best option following ideas regarding moving Brook Street ranks a little.

Actions: Trade still to complete the performa for the Ilkley and Bingley ranks and submit to HC/PH Service who will officially log and pass on to Highways.

In addition to the above Highways have replied to the rank requests that were submitted in April. Copies of the replies will be issued to the trades for discussions negotiations directly with Highways.

Working Together

The Service has reviewed past minutes and progress made with Associations over the past 12 months. It is evident that the same historical issues are being brought up multiple times; these are items that have been asked and answered previously and are therefore detrimental to positive working together.

The service will always support Associations putting forward ideas that are mutually beneficial and help improve and protect services for the public. The service has tried to promote positive initiatives such as CAB and the setting up of an Operator Association but both have had poor responses - with limited exception. The point was made that constantly complaining wouldn't change anything; positive actions were needed by the Trades.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a serious issue brought to light by failings within Rotherham Council. A CSE poster and information will be sent to all Operators and Proprietors. Operators and Proprietors are required to print the information and issue it drivers and also retain a dated copy of their driver's name and signature to evidence the driver has received, read and understands the information.

Action: CSE info to be sent out by service

Proposed Conditions Changes

Proposals were handed out and a further copy is attached to these minutes. Representatives were asked to take the changes to their members and provide written responses to the Service by Friday 19th June 2015.

Vehicle Advertising – final request for trade proposals on request to allow full wraps

The trades have not yet come forward with any proposals. Some possible ideas during conversations centred on suggestions of moving the stripe / crest or 90% wraps etc. GB encouraged Reps to be innovative and think about improving the hailing and booking of Taxis.

OLEV – Low Vehicle Emissions scheme

A handout was given to representatives and will also be emailed round.

Action: Email OLEV documentation to reps

Fare Cards

Enforcement Officers have been checking HC vehicles and their fare cards. Some of the vehicles were found to be not displaying them! The service is reviewing fare cards currently and will be making alterations to fonts, wording and appearance. Once this is approved all vehicles will be issued the new version.

Vehicle Plates

Officers provided an update on vehicle plates. No plates produced under the new database should have HCV in front of the numbers. One or two plates have been incorrectly issued by the service (containing HCV which makes the plate harder to read). Any HC proprietor wishing to have plate altered due to service error can arrange to drop in and have plates re done (free of charge).

Driver Badges

The drivers badge layout will be reviewed following request from representatives.