

Minutes of Hackney Carriage Meeting – 6th January 2016

Present

Shabbir Master	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Mohammad M Khan	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Zulfiqar Ali	Keighley and Bradford Taxi Driver's Association
Dennis Rowe	Licensing Compliance and Development Officer
Matthew Bibby	Licensing Support & Systems Officer (Note Taker)
Carol Stos	Licensing Manager
Geoff Binnington	Principal Officer

1. Introductions & Apologies

Chiragh Khalid	Bradford Hackney Carriage Association
Tahir Riaz	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Shabir Ahmed	Keighley and Bradford Taxi Driver's Association

2. Last Minutes

Fare cards – issued for comment in September 15 and over Xmas 15 a couple of points were identified concerning tariff use (tariff 3). Trade representatives said there should be no reason for anyone not to have a calendar meter.

Calendar adaption should be available for all meters and this can be used to sort out the tariffs.

Proposal: Representatives propose all meters should be calibrated in line with above

Action: Officers to re issue fare cards post amendment

Note: Schools have been spoken too regarding CSE awareness

Since the meeting there has been an update from Highways, the signs at Bingley and Keighley ranks were done but unfortunately Highways put the wrong wording on and have apologised and will redo the wording and signs as a result. There has also been investigation into the Keighley bus station but no answers have been found so far. Simon is pursuing this with colleagues.

3. Trade Association / Minimum Requirement

Previous consultation took place in 2015, there were no unanimous agreements reached by the various associations. The Service has drawn from the consultation and put forward a document for Reps to comment on. Officers went through the suggested requirements in detail and are sending out the information with these minutes.

One association was concerned the deadline was not long enough because it wanted to engage with its members to see if they had a majority decision. Officers explained that it is not a matter of individual Associations having majority decision or not. The decision, ultimately, is not a democratic response by individual Associations but one made with the interest of public safety.

Action: Comments from trade to be emailed to taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk by Friday 29th January

4. Ranks Update

There is no provision for a rank at North Parade due to objections. Trade were invited to pursue this issue with Highways on 01274 431000 to challenge the objections.

There is an issue with ranks being full with private cars after 9pm at Lahore and Morley Street and concerns that parking services did not work after 9pm. It was suggested that the trade phone 01274 43100 to register their concern directly with parking services. A suggestion was that parking services staffs work alternate patrols / shifts to tackle ongoing issues.

The new rank down by Broadway on Hall Ings needs a plate and post installing. That will be done in the next fortnight Highways informed us.

5. Vehicle Inspection Results

Statistics for November show a decline in pass rate compared to 3 years ago. Officers reiterated they had spent a lot of time working with and educating Operators and the trade on the importance of vehicle safety so this was disappointing. The current failure rate is unacceptable, although it is recognised that HC trade are outperforming their PH counterparts.

6. Licensing Update

Work is being undertaken on the HC Vehicle & Driver Application Forms, improving its visual look and ensuring the wording is clear for all applicants, especially regarding emphasis on declaring cautions and convictions and where proprietors intend to work. Once completed the form will be emailed out and updated on the HCPH service website.

The service has 40 appointments available per day, it was explained that drivers/proprietors and operators can make appointments for almost anything. As having an appointment reduces waiting time and allows the service to spread its workload. The trade are being encouraged to utilise the appointments rather than turning up without an appointment as this would be beneficial to all and reduce waiting in queues.

7. Enforcement Update / Complaints

In November enforcement examined 2% of the HC and PH trades during roadside patrols. 100% of HC vehicles passed these roadside checks. Well done.

The service is only dealing with a very small level of complaints and there have been a couple of issues surrounding tariffs over Christmas but nothing else for HC trade.

8. Training Update

The service is pleased to offer drivers the opportunity of doing Driving Standard Agency (DSA) equivalent driving assessment with local approved suppliers which are significantly cheaper than using the DSA. It should also be quicker to use a local supplier. Any new or existing applicants who need to prove their driving standards can use either an approved supplier or go through DSA .

CSE seminars – the service have written to circa 2500 PH drivers to book in for CSE seminars in February 2016. HC drivers will be written to during January and they will be asked to attend sessions that will be arranged for March. Any driver who has attended taxi modular training at Shearbridge since January 2015 will **not** need to attend the CSE seminar providing they have proof of attendance via the training certificate.

As a result of the conditions change of August 2013, all licensed drivers must undergo taxi modular training. Any driver who has not attended must attend before the end of August 2016 or the likelihood is they will be suspended from work.

9. Communication Update

The new conditions came into effect on January 1st 2016 – the service will be communicating via email with all Operators and the HC Proprietors. All Proprietors and operators must have and use a valid email address. They must also visit the website, especially the 'what's new' page on www.bradford.gov.uk/taxiandprivatehire

10. Proposed Conditions Changes

The service is proposing 5 new conditions changes. They are attached to the minutes and the trade representatives have been given a deadline of Friday 22nd January for replies / comments about the changes.

Actions: Matt to send out proposals via email to representatives

11. Association Agenda Point Submissions

There were no specific agenda points raised. One association, not represented on the day had emailed some points that were not clear. The service emailed the association to ask for clarity on the points but no reply was given by the association. Officers had sent out an email prior to the meeting asking for agenda points to be added on the 'new style' agenda point submission forms. This is to give clarity to everyone as to the reasons why a topic is to be discussed and allows time for responses to be drawn up.

12. Date of next meetings

The next joint HCPH meeting is on Wednesday 3rd February at City Hall

The next HC meeting is on Wednesday 6th April at Shearbridge at 10.30am

The association then asked for ways in which to get temporary ranks for Bradford Mela and other events. They were advised to ring 01274 431000 and ask for Highways who would be able to deal with the queries either directly or by passing on to other relevant services.