

**MINUTES OF: THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE**

Date of Meeting: 29th JANUARY 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor Steen (in the Chair)
Councillors Aldred, A. Barnes, Challinor, Cheetham,
Crawforth, Dickinson, Driver, Eaton, Essex, Forshaw,
Graham, Hancock, Hewlett, Lamb, Lynskey, Morris,
Neal, Nuttall, Pilling, Robertson, Ruddick, Sandiford,
Smith, Swain, Thorne, Tickner, Unsworth and Wilson**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive
Linda Fisher, Executive Director of Regulatory Services
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Bill Lawley, Interim Legal and Democratic Services Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager
Tracy Brzozowski, Licensing Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: 15 Members of the Public
2 Representatives from the Press**

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Chief Executive invited nominations for Chair of the meeting. A nomination was moved and seconded for Councillor Steen. A further nomination was moved and seconded for Councillor Neal.

Voting took place on the nominations and the results are set out below:

Councillor Steen – 16 votes
Councillor Neal – 13 votes

Resolved:

That Councillor Steen be appointed Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor J. Pawson, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gill, and Councillors Farrington, S. Pawson, L. Barnes and Haworth.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council were asked to consider whether they had an interest in any matters to be discussed at the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business.

5. **PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE:**
- **ANNUAL DRIVER LICENCE**
 - **ANNUAL STATUTORY DECLARATION**
 - **NEW FEE STRUCTURE**

Members of the Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer relating to the referral from Overview and Scrutiny to reconsider the decision taken by Cabinet on the 14th November 2007 to increase the fees for hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences together with the introduction of an annual fee and annual statutory declaration.

The Chair invited questions from members of the public however no questions were raised.

Various Councillors outlined concerns about the consultation process and discussion was held on the following matters:

- Financial information within the report
- Liaison with the taxi trade through the Working Group
- Fees and charges within other areas of the Council
- Licensing Unit Improvement Plan

The following proposal was moved and seconded:

That from the 1st April 2008 the following be agreed:

1. That an annual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence be introduced;
2. That an annual Statutory Declaration be introduced;
3. That a fee of £120 for new applications and a fee of £85 for renewal applications be introduced and that they be reviewed annually by the Executive Director of Regulatory Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council;
4. That should a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver licence expire, it will be treated as a new application should the applicant subsequently decide to re-apply.

The following amendment was moved and seconded:

That from the 1st April 2008 the following be agreed:

1. That an annual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence be introduced;
2. That an annual Statutory Declaration be introduced;
3. That a fee of £120 for new applications and a fee of £85 for renewal applications be introduced and that it be reviewed annually by the Executive Director of Regulatory Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council;

4. That should a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver licence expire, it will be treated as a new application should the applicant subsequently decide to re-apply.
5. That a full review of the costs and services within the Licensing Unit be undertaken:
6. That any further increases be capped at the rate of inflation for the next three years.
7. That Elected Member involvement be re-established though the Taxi Liaison meetings.

A vote took place on the amendment, the result of which was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
13	16	0

The amendment was lost and a vote was taken on the original proposal, the result of which was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
16	13	0

Resolved:

That from the 1st April 2008 the following be agreed:

1. That an annual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence be introduced;
2. That an annual Statutory Declaration be introduced;
3. That a fee of £120 for new applications and a fee of £85 for renewal applications be introduced and that they be reviewed annually by the Executive Director of Regulatory Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council;
4. That should a Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire Driver licence expire, it will be treated as a new application should the applicant subsequently decide to re-apply.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 7.40pm)

_____ CHAIR