

# REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 21 August 2008, at Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 10.00am.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Gallagher (Chairman), Councillors Crowther, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Grainger, Mrs Mellor, Mobbs and Vincett.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Falp and Harris.

## 353. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 354. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July and 28 July 2008 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 355. **REQUEST BY 74 DRIVERS TO INCREASE HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services regarding a request from 74 Hackney Carriage Drivers for an increase in hackney carriage fares.

Hackney Carriage fares were last increased in Warwick District in March 2008.

The current fares are as follows:

Any distance up to one mile £3.40\*

Each subsequent 220 yards (1/8 mile) £0.20\*

For each period of 45 seconds or part of 45 seconds £0.10\*

Soiling Charge £50.00

Between 23:00 and 05:00, Sundays and Bank Holidays and when a suitable vehicle carries 5 or more passengers the rates marked \* above are increased by 50%. The only rates chargeable at any time are flat rate or 50% extra.

The proposal from the Hackney Carriage Drivers was made because of the increase in fuel price and the effect this was having on their livelihood. They proposed the following tariffs for hackney carriages:

First ½ mile £3.40 and the second half of the first mile £1.00;

2<sup>nd</sup> and each complete mile thereafter £2.00

Waiting time 20p per minute

Retain the current soiling charge and 50% increase at certain times and when carrying 5 passengers or more.

The proposal meant there would be 29% increase in the charge for the first mile, 25% charge for each subsequent mile and 100% increase in the waiting time. With regard to the 50% increase at certain times and when carrying five or more passengers, the first mile would be £6.60 and each subsequent miles £3.00.

## **REGULATORY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

Comparative costs from neighbouring authorities were provided for the Committee.

The Licensing Services Manager reported he had been contacted by several Hackney Carriage drivers objecting to the proposal. Both the supporters and objectors to the proposal had been invited to attend the meeting but no parties attended.

### **RESOLVED** that

- (1) the application for an increase in Hackney Carriage Fares be refused because in the opinion of the Committee the last increase was approved by this Council in March and at present fuel prices were on the decline; and
- (2) the Committee felt that the request presented lacked sufficient detail and suggested that in future drivers should provide a breakdown of the costs they incur.

### **356. PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following two items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

### **357. COMPLAINT REGARDING A LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda because the legal representative of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver was unable to attend the meeting.

### **358. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE FROM A PERSON WITH CONVICTIONS**

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services regarding an application by WA to become a hackney carriage private hire driver.

WA had declared offences on his application form which had been confirmed by a CRB check. WA had also recently been refused a hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence by Birmingham City Council under their policy for convictions.

WA attended the meeting, addressed the Committee and responded to questions from them.

## **REGULATORY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

The Committee asked WA to leave the room while they deliberated and made their decision.

**RESOLVED** that the application can proceed, but WA was informed that the Committee take matters like this very seriously and that if any further incidents took place involving WA this matter will also be taken into consideration.

WA was invited back in and informed of the decision and the right to appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of notification.

(The meeting ended at 11.10am)