



MINUTES

Public Protection Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 6 July 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Shirley Green (Chairman) Councillor Gavin Harrison (Acting Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Peter Collins, Angela Jacques, Michael Sayward, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambly, Clare Lord, Sharon Wadsworth.
Other Attendees:	HC/PH driver XZ

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. No interests were declared on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 23 March 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Peter Collins substituted for Councillor Karen Henshaw;
Councillor Viv Wilder substituted for Councillor Stan Trudgill;
Councillor Michael Withers substituted for Councillor Ray Thomas.

Decision Items

4. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver - AA

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the committee. Members were assured that the complaint made was not in relation to public safety and that deferring the matter to a later date posed no risk to the public.

5. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver – XZ

Chris Hambly, Environmental Services Manager, introduced a report in relation to a current licensed driver, XZ, a combined hackney and private hire driver holder. The Committee was requested to determine whether they considered XZ to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

Information had been received regarding a safeguarding issue raised by a member of the public. Details of the issue and the transcript of an interview with the driver were provided to the committee. It was noted that a formal

complaint had not been received directly from the passenger involved, who had not made themselves available for interview. A letter in support, from the driver's current employer, was also provided to members.

The driver was invited to address members and respond to questions and following this, the meeting was adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held. Following the discussion and considering the responses received from XZ the committee were satisfied that the comments made by the driver were inappropriate, but that he had not used the words in question with the intention of communicating sexual innuendo. It was RESOLVED to issue a strongly worded warning letter to XZ over the inappropriate comments.

6. Request for an Increase in the Level of Hackney Carriage Fares

At the last meeting of the Public Protection Committee, a request was considered for an increase in the level of hackney carriage fares. Regrettably, an element of the trade's proposal was omitted from the original consideration. The proposal, for consideration at this meeting, was in relation to tariff 4.

Current -

*Tariff 4 – applies to hirings commenced between 02.00am and 06.00am (apart from those identified in tariff 3)
1st person £3.50 start for the first 300 yds/274m and 20p for every subsequent 150 yds/137m or part thereof.*

Proposal -

*Tariff 4 – applies to hirings commenced between **00.00am** and 06.00am (apart from those identified in tariff 3)
1st person **£3.70** start for the first 300 yds/274m and 20p for every subsequent 150 yds/137m or part thereof.*

During the discussion on the proposed amendments to tariff 4 the committee were supportive of the changes with the exception of the Tariff 4 start time and proposed an alternative of 1am.

It was RESOLVED to amend Tariff 4 as follow:-

Tariff 4 – applies to hirings commenced between **01:00am** and 06.00am (apart from those identified in tariff 3)
1st person **£3.70** start for the first 300 yds/274m and 20p for every subsequent 150 yds/137m or part thereof.

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