



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>MONDAY, 1 MARCH 2010 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Susan Scoccia (Chairman), Ivan Bulwer, Paul Fuller, Colin Richards, Arthur Taylor, Jerry White, David Williams
Officers Present	Jonathan Baker, Amanda Gregory, Justin Thorne, Kevin Winchcombe
Apologies	Cllr Jonathan Bacon, Heather Humby

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## 7. **Minutes**

### RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [30 November 2009](#) be confirmed.

## 8. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fuller declared a personal interest in item 4 of the agenda as he knew the owners John and Julia Gange of Ganges Taxi's and was a user of their service.

Councillor Scoccia declared a personal interest in item 4 of the agenda as she knew Mr Keith Rogers of Door to Door to Taxi's and was a user of their service.

## 9. **Report of the Head of Community Safety Service**

### Determination of the table of fares in respect of Hackney Carriages

The Committee was reminded of the original report which was presented on 30 November 2009 and subsequently resulted in the need to amend the maximum tariffs and / or additional charges contained in the Table of Fares.

It was noted that the consultation period of 11 December 2009 to 13 January 2010 as advertised in the Isle of Wight County Press, allowed for the revised table to be drafted and presented to the Committee. Members were advised that the agreed tariff would need to be in place by 31 March 2010 in order for legal requirements to be met.

Members raised issues including that clarification be given on how the extra charges would be communicated to customers. It was advised that in order for passengers to be made fully aware of any additional costs over and above the fare of the journey, drivers would inform passengers prior to the commencement of the trip. This would include asking customers how they wished to pay for their fare as well as advising of the additional 3 percent should they choose to pay by debit or credit card as well as a further 10 pence charge for each individual piece of luggage handled by the driver.

The Principal Licensing Officer clarified that the charges set in the 4 tariffs would be the maximum charge and meters would be re-calibrated and re-sealed for the new rate, although any Taxi company would be able to charge less should they wish to by means of drawing up their own contract accordingly.

Members were also reminded that a review of all tariffs would be held on an annual basis and that the next review was due in November 2010.

A representative from the Taxi trade raised concerns over the additional costs of luggage handling and the opportunity for this to be open to abuse. The Committee was advised that taxi drivers should be trusted to administer charges correctly and that should any complaints from members of the public over this or any other area be forthcoming, issues could be addressed at the next annual review.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the Luggage Charge in the Table of Fares be amended to read "Charge to be made for each individual piece of luggage handled by the driver".
- (ii) THAT the Credit Card Charge in the Table of Fares be amended to read "To only be charged when payment is to be made by a debit or credit card".
- (iii) THAT under the heading Extra Charges within the Table of Fares, the wording "Drivers are advised to inform passengers of these extras charges before they are included in the fare" be added.
- (iv) THAT subject to the Resolutions (i), (ii) and (iii) above being amended, the Table of Fares in Respect of Hackney Carriages, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN