

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON**

HELD ON THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2008

Present: Councillor Mrs. M. Nugent (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. M. Baird, B. Bates,
E. Bell, S. Bishop, Mrs. G. Bleasdale,
B. Burn, A. Burnip, R. Burnip, P.J.
Campbell, A. Collinson, Mrs. E. M. Connor,
R. Crute, R. Davison, Mrs. S. Forster,
Mrs. J. Freak, J. Haggan, H. High, A.J.
Holmes, Mrs. E. Huntington, G. Johnson,
Mrs. A.E. Laing, T. Longstaff, Mrs. S. Mason,
K. McGonnell, D. Milsom, D. Myers, A.
Napier, Mrs. A. Naylor, C. Patching, G. Patterson,
G. Pinkney, B. Quinn, D. Raine, F. Shaw,
Mrs. B.A. Sloan, R. Taylor, D.J. Taylor-Gooby,
R.J. Todd, T. Unsworth, C. Walker, P.G. Ward
and Mrs. V. M. Williams.

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 10 January 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 20 December 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

3. **AMENDMENT OF THE EASINGTON DISTRICT COUNCIL BYE-LAWS AND CONDITIONS TO INCLUDE THE SPECIFICATION OF VEHICLE STANDARD FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES**

Consideration was given to the abovementioned report of the Executive Member for Health, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Executive Member for Health advised that the report sought approval to amend the Council's current bye-laws and conditions to include the specification of vehicle standard for hackney carriages which would be licensed as wheelchair accessible.

The report provided details of the required specification of such vehicles, specified the required training for drivers and sought approval to amend the Authority's current vehicle construction standards to include this additional criteria of vehicle.

The Executive Member explained that additional hackney carriages above the current limit of 93 would be licensed by the Authority if they satisfied the standard specified in the report. The addition of these vehicles to the hackney

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carriage fleet would ensure wheelchair users were provided for in day to day taxi usage in the District.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the Government had specified a date of 2020 by which all hackney carriages in certain larger authorities must be wheelchair accessible. It was anticipated that once this date was passed, the legislation would be rolled out to all authorities in the country. Implementation of the policy now would pre-empt such a requirement.

Durham County Council currently provided training for drivers contracted for the transportation of wheelchair users. They were prepared to provide the same training for the drivers of wheelchair accessible hackney carriages. The cost of this training would be borne by the driver and would be a requirement for the licensing of such vehicles.

The specification which vehicles must comply with in order to be licensed, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report for Members consideration. The standard had been drawn up taking into consideration reports from the Public Authority Transport Network and the Department of Transport's Ergonomic Requirements for Accessible Taxis.

The Executive Member continued that prior to the meeting, East Durham Hackney Association, through its Secretary, had expressed concern regarding the licensing of rear access vehicles on health and safety grounds. However, as this specification was commonly applied by other Authorities and the vehicles concerned complied with Government standards, they would be licensed at this point in time. The concerns raised by the Association would be forwarded to the Department of Transport. The standard for wheelchair accessible hackney carriages would be re-visited taking into account any comments received from the Department of Transport.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the existing bye-laws and conditions be amended to include the vehicle construction specification at Appendix 1 to the report, in respect of wheelchair accessible hackney carriage vehicles;
- (b) the specification of Durham County Council as the appropriate training body for drivers of such vehicles, be approved;
- (c) the concerns expressed by East Durham Hackney Association, be noted and forwarded to the Department of Transport with the standard for wheelchair hackney carriage vehicles revisited taking into account any comments received.

4. TO SEAL DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED that the action taken in affixing the Common Seal to the following documents, be endorsed:-

19730 Transfer of Whole of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Leonard Stones and Verna Beverley Richards (2) relating to The Victoria Inn, 49 Front Street West, Wingate

19731 Release of Part of the land from a Registered Charge relating to

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Plot 31 High Croft, Thornley

- 19732 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC(1) and John Newby Stephenson (2) relating to 13 Nelson Close, Horden
- 19733 Lease made between EDC (1) and Robert Hanratty (2) relating to residential flat situate and known as No. 23 Corry Close, Blackhall Colliery
- 19734 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Anne Marie Shillaw and John George Shillaw (2) relating to land adjacent to 103 Oak Road, Easington
- 19735 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Linda Anne Thirlaway (2) relating to 13 Walton Terrace, Wingate
- 19736 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 32 Dawson Road, Wingate
- 19737 Licence made between EDC (1) and DCC (2) relating to former Hawthorn Cokeworks
- 19738 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Patrick Sergeant and Steven Leigh (2) relating to 15 Coronation Road, Wingate
- 19739 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Julie Carr and Christopher A.W. Gair (2) relating to 60 Bruce Crescent, Wingate
- 19740 Release of Part of the Land from a Registered Charge relating to Plot 110 High Croft, Thornley
- 19741 Lease made between EDC (1) and Marie Thompson relating to 1a Macrea House, Sea View Walk, Murton
- 19742 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Stephanie Anne Mason (2) relating to 12 Whitehouse Crescent Shotton
- 19743 Deed of Rectification made between EDC (1) and Brian Cranson and Gillian Cranson (2) relating to 20 Ash Grove, Trimdon Station
- 19744 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Malcolm Wheatley (2) relating to 14 Brandlings Way, Peterlee
- 19745 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Shirley Griffiths (2) relating to 132 Bruce Glasier Terrace, Shotton Colliery
- 19746 Deed of Properties made between EDC (1) and Bank of Scotland PLC (2) relating to sale and purchase of land and buildings at Edenhill, Peterlee
- 19747 Legal Charge of a Registered Estate made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Northern Division) Limited (2) relating to land at

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Edenhill, Peterlee

- 19748 Transfer of Portfolio of Titles made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Northern Division) Limited (2) relating to land at Edenhill, Peterlee
- 19749 Agreement made between EDC (1) and Gladedale (Northern Division) Limited (2) relating to Land at Edenhill, Peterlee
- 19750 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Leonard Stones and Verna Beverley Richards (2) relating to Land at Victoria Inn, Wingate (in duplicate)
- 19751 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gillian Sirrell (2) relating to 10 Wadham Close, Peterlee
- 19752 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Maureen Simpson (2) relating to 3 Laurel Avenue, Seaham
- 19753 Cancellation of Entries relating to a Registered Charge relating to 2 Hawthorn Crescent, Horden
- 19754 Lease made between EDC (1) and John Stones (2) relating to land and garage situate at rear of 47 Hazel Drive, Hesleden

At the close of business, Councillor H. High conveyed thanks on behalf of Shotton Residents Association for the work the Council had undertaken at Shotton closed churchyard.

JE/CB/COM/DIST/080200
12 February 2008