

- BOROUGH OF WATFORD -

BYELAWS

Made under section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, and section 171 of the Public Health Act, 1875, by the COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD with respect to hackney carriages in the Borough of Watford.

INTERPRETATION

1. Throughout these byelaws "the Council" means the Council of the Borough of Watford and "the District" means the Borough of Watford.

Provisions regulating the manner in which the number of each hackney carriage, corresponding with the number of its licence, shall be displayed.

2. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the number of the licence granted to him in respect of the carriage to be legibly marked on the outside and inside of the carriage, on plates provided by the Council and affixed thereto in positions indicated by the Council.
- (b) A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall: -
- (i) not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any such number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire;
 - (ii) not cause or permit the carriage to stand or ply for hire with any such plate so defaced that any figure or material particular is illegible.

Provisions regulating how hackney carriages are to be furnished or provided.

3. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall: -
- (a) provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;
 - (b) cause the roof or covering to be kept water-tight;
 - (c) provide any necessary windows and means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side;
 - (d) cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered;
 - (e) cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering;
 - (f) cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
 - (g) provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage;
 - (h) provide an efficient fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use;
 - (i) provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver; and
 - (j) have fitted in the carriage an electric light sufficient to illuminate the interior thereof.
4. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the same to be provided with a taximeter so constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:-
- (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with a key, flag, or other device the turning of which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word "HIRED" to appear on the face of the taximeter;
 - (b) such key, flag, or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (c) when the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in figures clearly legible and free from ambiguity the fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of such carriage by time as well as for distance in pursuance of the tariff fixed by the Council;
 - (d) the word "FARE" shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply

- (e) to the fare recorded thereon;
the taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof are at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitable illuminated during any period of hiring; and
- (f) the taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals and other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.

Provisions regulating the conduct of the proprietors and drivers of hackney carriages plying within the District in their several employments, and determining whether such drivers shall wear any and what badges.

5. The driver of a hackney carriage shall:-
 - (a) when standing or plying for hire keep the taximeter locked in the position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (b) as soon as the carriage is hired by distance and time, and before commencing the journey, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the key or other device fitted for the purpose and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring; and
 - (c) cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of the hiring which is between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.
6. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not tamper with or permit any persons to tamper with the taximeter with which the carriage is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto.
7. The driver of a hackney carriage shall, when plying for hire and not actually hired:-
 - (a) proceed with reasonable speed to one of the stands appointed by the Council;
 - (b) if a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand;
 - (c) on arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face the same direction; and
 - (d) from time to time when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward;
 - (e) when such carriage occupies the first or second position on one of the stands appointed by the Council, remain with the carriage ready to be hired at once by any person.
8. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire, shall not make use of the services of any other person for the purpose of importuning any person to hire such carriage.
9. The driver of a hackney carriage shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.
10. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such carriage any greater number of persons (excluding the driver) than the number of persons specified on the plates provided by the Council and affixed to the outside and inside of the carriage.

Provided that for the purpose of this byelaw children under the age of three years shall not be reckoned if carried in the rear seat of the hackney carriage.
11. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who has agreed or has been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at such appointed time and place.
12. The driver of a hackney carriage so constructed as to carry luggage shall, when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage:-
 - (a) convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
 - (b) afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading; and

- (c) afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any building at which he may take up or set down such person.
13. (a) If a badge has been provided by the Council and delivered to the driver of a hackney carriage he shall, when standing or plying for hire, and when hired, wear that badge in such position and manner as to be plainly visible.
- (b) a proprietor and driver of a hackney carriage shall not:-
- (i) wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any part of the badge to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing plying or being driven for hire;
 - (ii) cause or permit the carriage to stand, ply or be driven for hire with any such badge so defaced that the marking thereon is illegible.

Provisions fixing the rates or fares to be paid for hackney carriages within the District, and securing the due publication of such fares.

14. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the Council the rate or fare being calculated by distance and time unless the hirer express at the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time. Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance and time the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter save for any extra charges authorised by the Council which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.
15. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause a statement of the fares fixed by the Council to be exhibited inside the carriage, in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.
- (b) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

Provisions securing the safe custody and re-delivery of any property accidentally left in hackney carriages and fixing the charges to be made in respect thereof.

16. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.
17. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him:-
- (a) carry it as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours, if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner to the Town Hall, Watford, and leave it in the custody of an officer designated by the Council to receive it on his giving receipt for it; and
 - (b) be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be re-delivered an amount equal to five pence in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to the Town Hall, Watford, whichever is the greater) but not more than five pounds.

Penalties

18. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level two on the standard scale and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding two pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefor.

Repeal of Byelaws

19. The byelaws relating to hackney carriages which were made by the Council on and which are referred to in the Schedule hereto are hereby repealed.

Schedule

Date byelaws made
by the Council

Date byelaws confirmed
by one of Her Majesty's
Principal Secretaries of
State

27th November 1973
23rd January 1992
22nd July 1994

18th January 1974
5th May 1992
7th October 1994

THE COMMON SEAL of WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
was hereunto affixed this 23rd day of November 2000
in the presence of :-



Ian Brown
Mayor

Carol Chen
Solicitor to the Council

The Secretary of State this day confirmed the
foregoing byelaws and fixed the date on which
they are to come into operation as the 5th
day of February 2001.

J M E Rogers 10-1-01

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State