

Minute of Meeting



General Purposes Committee

Date	Time	Venue
2 April 2019	10.03 am	Council Chamber, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Smaill (Chair)	Councillor Alexander
Councillor Baird	Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Curran	Councillor Hackett
Councillor Hardie	Councillor Imrie
Councillor Lay-Douglas	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor McCall	Councillor Munro
Councillor Russell	Councillor Wallace

In attendance:

Verona MacDonald	Democratic Services Team Leader
Alan Turpie	Legal Services Manager
Inspector John Dryden	Police, Scotland
Sergeant John Fortune	Police, Scotland
Inspector Kevin Smith	Police, Scotland
Steven Thomson	Trading Standards Manager
Edel Ryan	Group Manager, Environmental Health

1. Apologies

The Clerk intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Councillors Johnstone, Parry and Winchester.

2. Order of Business

The Clerk advised that the order of business was as per the agenda circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

Councillor Curran indicated he would be declaring an interest in the applications on the agenda relating to private hire and taxis on the basis of his business interests in the taxi trade. He further advised that with regard to the Taxi Driver application he also personally knew the applicant. Councillor Muirhead declared an interest in the Private Hire Car Driver application.

4. Minute of Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 22 January 2019 was considered and approved. The Chair was thereafter authorised to sign the Minute as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Public Reports

Report No.	Title	Presented by:
5.1	Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (as amended) – Procedure for Determination of Applications etc regarding the Licensing of Permanent Residential Caravan Sites – Report by Director, Education, Communities and Economy	Group Manager, Environmental Health
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Committee heard from Edel Ryan, Group Manager, Environmental Health who spoke to the terms of a report which sought approval for the arrangements to dispose of licensing applications made in relation to permanent residential caravan sites including checking on the fit and proper person status of an individual making an application. She advised that all existing caravan sites must apply for a new 5 year renewable licence by 1 May 2019 and that the local authority must determine an application within 3 months of receipt failing which the application was automatically approved. She continued by advising of the legislative requirements regarding the fit and proper person test.</p> <p>Following initial discussion of the terms of the report, the Chair decided that the remainder of the Committee's deliberations would be held in private. The reason for this was to allow Members to have a fuller conversation regarding the implications for the Council of the introduction of the amended legislation and this may include mention of individual sites and was therefore exempt in terms of Paragraphs 2, 3 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.</p>		

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Committee agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted item, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2, 3, 6 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- 5.1 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (as amended) – Procedure for Determination of Applications etc regarding the Licensing of Permanent Residential Caravan Sites
- 6.1 Application for a Second Hand Car Dealer Licence – J. Caruana
- 6.2 Application for a Private Hire Car Driver Licence – G. Flanagan
- 6.3 Application for a Taxi Driver Licence – W. Mack

The Meeting terminated at 11.45 am