

# Minute of Meeting



## General Purposes Committee

Date	Time	Venue
15 November 2016	2 pm	Council Chamber

### Present:

Councillor Andrew Coventry (Chair)	Councillor Baxter
Councillor Bennett	Councillor Bryant
Councillor Constable	Councillor Imrie
Councillor Montgomery	Councillor Parry
Councillor Pottinger	Councillor Rosie
Councillor Russell	Councillor Young
Councillor Wallace	

### In attendance:

Alan Turpie	Legal Services Manager
Inspector Smith	Police Scotland
Verona MacDonald	Democratic Services Team Leader
Paul Aitken	Solicitor, Midlothian Council
Chief Inspector Simpson	Police Scotland

## 1. Apologies

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- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors de Vink, Johnstone, Milligan and Muirhead.

## 2. Order of Business

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- 2.1 The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda circulated. Paul Aitken advised that the Chair had consented to an additional item which would be raised under the Private Reports section relating to an application previously dealt with by the Committee.

## 3. Declarations of interest

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There were no Declarations of Interest intimated.

## 4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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- 4.1 On the Motion of Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Young, the Minutes of Meeting of 4 October 2016 were approved as a correct record.

## 5. Public Reports

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Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Suitability of Electric Cars Report by Director, Resources	Alan Turpie
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
Alan Turpie spoke to the terms of the Report and explained that the Committee was being asked to consider whether electric and hybrid vehicles should be licensed as Private Hire Cars or Taxis and to agree any consequential changes to the licensing conditions pertaining to private hire cars should the Committee agree to licence such vehicles.		
He advised that the technology relating to electric vehicles had advanced considerably since the licensing conditions were last reviewed. Electric and hybrid vehicles are cheaper to run and reduce emissions and air pollution. He noted that Midlothian Council is one of only 7 local authorities in Scotland who do not allow electric or hybrid vehicles to operate as private hire or taxi cars. Should the Committee be minded to allow electric and hybrid vehicles to operate as taxi and private hire cars Condition 14 of the standard licensing conditions pertaining to private hire cars would need to be replaced to accommodate such vehicles.		
<b>Decision</b>		
The Committee agreed to:		
(a) allow electricity powered vehicles including hybrid to be licensed as taxi and private hire cars;		
(b) amend Condition 14 for private hire cars to read "The vehicle must have an engine capacity with a "Power to Weight" ratio equal to or greater than 0.0690 hp per kg".		
<b>Action</b>		
Director, Resources		

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Street Naming and Numbering – Policy and Procedure – Report by Director, Resources	Verona MacDonald
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>Verona MacDonald spoke to the terms of the Report which sought to introduce a Council policy for street naming and numbering in Midlothian. She advised that in terms of Section 97 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council is the responsible authority for the naming of streets and the numbering of properties and in terms of the Scheme of Administration, these functions are remitted to the Director, Resources and carried out at no cost to developers and/or property owners.</p> <p>She explained that the majority of applications received relate to new developments such as larger developments by national house-builders or single houses, proposed by individuals. Occasionally, a street renaming or renumbering exercise may also be required to avoid or ease confusion and/or duplication.</p> <p>Presently there is no approved policy and procedure for undertaking the service and the proposed Policy, annexed to the Report aims to set out a framework for street naming in Midlothian. Furthermore, the Council does not currently charge for the service and a review of the service provided by other Councils in Scotland had identified that a number of them charge a fee relative to the administrative cost of providing the service. She confirmed that any income generated would contribute towards the Council's responsibility to where possible maximise its income thus ensuring best value for the public purse whereby tasks undertaken in this regard are met from money generated by applications.</p> <p>Thereafter, questions were put by several Councillors relating to the process of identifying suitable and appropriate street names. Verona MacDonald advised that it was not envisaged that the current process would change and that she understood the Provost welcomed suggestions from elected members. She mentioned that the Policy and Procedure document included the drawing-up of a list of suitable names to enable a quicker turnaround of applications and suggested that the list could be circulated to elected members for their feedback. Members indicated that this would be welcomed.</p>		
<b>Decision</b>		
<p>The Committee unanimously agreed:-</p> <p>(a) to approve the Policy and Procedure for Street Naming and Numbering contained in Appendix I of the Report including the level of charges for carrying out the function, with effect from 1 April 2017 and;</p> <p>(b) that the charges levied be included in the annual review of charges made by the Council for services provided, undertaken by the Director, Resources as part of the annual budget setting process.</p>		
<b>Action</b>		
Director, Resources		

## **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 items, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-**

6.1 Application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence – W. McKinney

6.2 Application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence – S. Mitchell

6.3 Application for a Window Cleaner's Licence – A. Pearson

Additional Item – Application for a Licence for a House in Multiple Occupancy  
– Inveravon House, Loanhead

The Meeting terminated at 2.37 pm