MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 1 December 2009, at 2.00 pm.

Present:- Councillors C Beattie (Chair), Aitchison, L Beattie, Boyes, Brown, Constable, Imrie, Milligan, Russell, Statham, Thacker and Wilson.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Bennett, Chalmers, Moffat, Montgomery, Muirhead and Thompson.

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 Minutes

(a) Meeting held on 3 November 2009

On a motion by Councillor Aitchison, seconded by Councillor Brown, the Minutes of Meeting of 3 November 2009, were approved as a correct record.

(b) Meeting of Gourlaw Sub Committee

The Minutes of Meeting of the Gourlaw Sub Committee held on 26 November 2009 as shown in the Appendix hereto, were noted and the relative recommendation was approved.

3 Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

(a) Procedure for Considering Disposal of Applications

The Committee noted report, dated 16 November 2009, by the Director, Corporate Services, concerning the procedure for disposing of applications for Licences, in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

(b) Taxi and Private Hire Car Drivers – Driving Offences

With reference to paragraph 3(d) of the Minutes of 1 September 2009, there was submitted report, dated 22 November 2009, by the Director, Corporate Services, confirming that the Midlothian Taxi Owners’ Association had unanimously agreed to recommend rejection of the Skill Development Programmes for new Taxi Drivers and potential application of the principle in respect of Taxi and Private Hire Car Drivers. Appended to the report was report, dated 21 August 2009, by the Director.

Decision

To continue consideration of the matter pending consultation with the Police.
4 Common Good Funds, Trusts and Bequests, Opencast Coal Funds, Educational Trust and Fund and Pentland House Bequest

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minutes of 3 November 2009, there was submitted report, dated 22 November 2009, by the Director, Corporate Services providing:

(a) revised information on opening balances, movement of funds, closing balances and commitments in respect of the Common Good Funds, Trusts and Bequests, Opencast Coal Funds, Educational Trust and Fund and Pentland House Bequest;

(b) an update in respect of the treatment of Revenue and Capital, health related Bequests, Dalkeith Bequests, Maintenance, etc Bequests, Bequests which were registered with the Scottish Charities Regulator and the Pentland House Bequest; and

(c) further information about the Opencast Coal Funds in respect of Monteith Drift Mine, Binkbonny, Monteith Houses, Smeaton and Oxenfoord.

Decision

(a) To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the report and statements on the Bequests which were registered with the Regulator;

(b) To authorise an approach to Medical Practices concerning the health – related Bequests;

(c) To note that further reports about the Opencast Funds would be submitted as appropriate; and

(d) To request further information about the Oxenfoord Opencast Coal Fund.

Sederunt

Councillors Boyes, Imrie and Milligan left the Meeting at this stage (2.08 pm).

5 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 Section 50 (A) (ii) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

(a) Window Cleaners Licences – Applications – Resumed Hearings (2) – Refused; and
(b) Private Hire Car Drivers Licences – Consideration of Applications (3):

(i) Granted on the standard conditions;

(ii) Refused as the Applicant was not considered to be a fit and proper person to be the holder of a Licence; and

(iii) Granted on the standard conditions.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to proceed as detailed in the Addendum hereto.

The Meeting terminated at 3.45 pm.
APPENDIX

(relative to paragraph 2(b)

MINUTES of MEETING of the GOURLAW SUB-COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday 26 November 2009 at 10.00 am.

Present:- Councillors C Beattie (Chair), Aitchison and Imrie.

1 Minutes of Meeting

The Sub-Committee approved the Minutes of Meeting of 22 September 2009.

Arising therefrom, with reference to:-

(a) paragraph 2 thereof, the Clerk reported (i) that consultations were still taking place with Rosewell and District Community Council concerning the feasibility of providing gateway features at the entrances to the village; (ii) that a final payment had been requested by Bonnyrigg Rose Junior Football Club for the Car Park Project of £9,900; and no funding had been released for the walkway project at Dalhousie Chesters; and (iii) that planning permission had been granted for an extension to Shewington with a projected yield of 200,000 tonnes of coal and 10,000 tonnes of fire clay; and (iv) on the current financial position; and

(b) paragraph 3 thereof, the Head of Frontline Services reported (i) on the consultation exercise; and (ii) the intention to instal a Puffin Light Controlled crossing in Lothian Street, Bonnyrigg in January 2010.

Decision

To note the reports.

(Action – Directors, Corporate Services and Commercial Services)

2 Hopefield, Bonnyrigg – Erection of Bus Shelters

There was submitted report, dated 2 November 2009, by the Director, Commercial Services regarding concerns which had been expressed about the lack of bus shelters on the new distributer road (B6392) adjacent to Hopefield, Bonnyrigg, pending the completion of the housing development there and adoption of the roads after July 2010.
Decision

To agree to recommend that a sum of £15,000 be disbursed for the supply and erection of three bus shelters on the basis that two would be relocated in Bonnyrigg/Rosewell after completion of the development, subject to the approval of Scottish Coal.

3 Poltonhall Community Hall – Proposed Allotment

There was submitted letter, dated 16 November 2009 from Bonnyrigg After School Club, Bonnyrigg Primary School, Sherwood Community Centre, Cockpen Road, Bonnyrigg, requesting financial assistance towards the cost of forming an allotment garden for the children at the Poltonhall Community Hall, Staiside, Bonnyrigg.

Decision

To continue consideration of the request for further information.

4 Distributor Road – Speed Message Signs at entrance to Poltonhall

With reference to paragraph 4(b) of the Minutes of 7 October 2008, the Sub Committee noted verbal report by the Head of Frontline Services that consideration was being given to the installation of Variable Speed Message Signs at a number of locations, including the entrance to Poltonhall; and a report back would be made if necessary.

The meeting terminated at 10.30 am.