

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG -2013-087

MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD ON 16th APRIL, 2013
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG

Present: Mr E J Harrhy (Chair)
Mr A Davies
Ms G Mason
Mr M Evans
Inspector E Smith (RSPCA)
Sgt Maria Henry – Dog Section
Mrs Sian Curley, Scheme Administrator
Ms Michelle Vaisey-Baker, Assistant Scheme Administrator

Apologies: Councillor D Blakebrough (Monmouthshire County Borough Council)
Councillor L Winnett (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)
Mrs L Buchanan-Smith
Mr G Lucas
Mr I Johnston – Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent
Mr P Harris – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent

The meeting began at 4pm

1 Minutes of last Meeting – 8th January 2013

ACTION

The minutes were reviewed and agreed to be an accurate record.

2 Commissioner's Update

We were informed that over the past couple of months the Commissioner has met with various groups including RSPCA, RSPB and National Farmers Association to discuss various issues such as fly grazing and wildlife crime. The Commissioner is open to working with these types of organisations and has done a press release in respect of this. Mrs Curley advised us that if anyone knows of similar organisations who may wish to meet the Commissioner to let Mrs Curley or Ms Vaisey-Baker know. The Commissioner has mentioned the Animal Welfare Scheme during all these meetings and has advised them on how important the scheme is.

Mrs Curley informed us that when the Police & Crime Plan was launched it was in conjunction with South Wales Fire Service and their Operation Bernie so good relationships are being forged with various partner agencies. We were advised that the Commissioner will keep us involved in any future engagement and that as volunteers we will have the opportunity over the coming year to have an input into what we think may be beneficial to include in the plan. The Commissioner has also

asked the Chief Constable to try to deliver the plan whilst maintaining frontline policing. It was noted that whilst savings still needed to be made the priority is to raise public confidence whilst delivering the best service to the communities of Gwent.

3 Operational Update from Dog Section

We were informed that in January PC Rosie Rabbitt's dog Nelly had to be put to sleep following degenerative problems. We were advised that PC Rabbitt has now got another dog called Ouzo and PC Nick Price has a new dog called Hilda, these dogs are brother and sister and are developing well, it is hoped that they will both be licensed next week.

PS Henry informed us that PC Gwynne has now got a six month old pup called Charlie who is developing well and gaining confidence. It is hoped that this pup will be able to replace PD Roy when he retires. We were advised that PC Gwynne is also coming up to retirement so we will receive an update on who Charlie will work with in future.

PS Henry advised us that PC Mark Porter and Buddy are due to receive a Chief Constable's Recognition Award next month following a successful drugs bust. PC Andy North and Kenny were also put forward for the award but were unsuccessful; however they will receive a local award.

We were informed that PC North's dog Eddie had been in and out of the vets in January as he had initially eaten a sock and once removed he ate a mitten within a matter of days. He has come through the operations but is now having to wear a muzzle to stop him eating objects when he conducts property searches. He will be undergoing drugs training with PC Gareth Gwynne later this week and a new way of praising him will need to be established to take into account the muzzle.

We were informed that the set up with Bridgend kennels is working well. We requested that PS Henry ask for regular updates from South Wales to include in her monthly update reports, highlighting if there have been any issues etc. PS Henry confirmed that she liaises regularly with the Bridgend office and they contact her if there are any issues.

MH

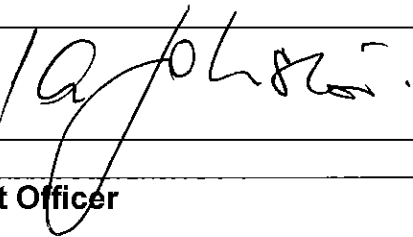
PS Henry advised us that the Summerhill Vet's contract is due to expire soon so it will need to be put out to tender.

4 Any Other Business

It was queried if visits could be conducted by just one visitor rather than in pairs. It was noted that whilst it isn't mandatory to have two people conduct a visit, it gives a better balance if two are in attendance. We agreed that, in circumstances where one individual is sick or cancels at the last minute etc, visits can still be conducted by one visitor.

5 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 16th July 2013 at 4pm in Conference Room 1 at Police Headquarters. Please can all visitors note that they will be required to go to the main Police Headquarters reception to gain access to this meeting room.

Ian Johnston QPM, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	
I have monitored the Animal Welfare Scheme minutes and am satisfied with progress.	
Signed 	Date 11.7.13
Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None

