

**DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2017-012**

**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING**  
**HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016, 4.00PM**  
**AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG**

**PRESENT:** Mr Martyn Evans – Chair

Mr E J Harry  
Councillor Lisa Winnett  
Mrs Gill Mason  
Mrs Laura Buchanan-Smith

Mr Jeff Cuthbert – Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent, OPCC  
Ms Eleri Thomas – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent,  
OPCC  
Inspector Julie Pearse - Dog Section, Gwent Police  
Mrs Siân Curley – Scheme Manager, OPCC  
Miss Jessica Tippins – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC

The meeting began at 4.00pm

**1 INTRODUCTION TO POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND ACTION  
DEPUTY POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The group began by congratulating Inspector Pearse on her substantive promotion to Inspector. Inspector Pearse (JP) thanked the group and reassured them that she would be remaining as part of the Animal Welfare scheme in her new role.

The group welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, Jeff Cuthbert (PCC) and his Deputy, Eleri Thomas (DPCC) to the meeting.

The PCC thanked the group and informed them that it had been an interesting and busy first four months. He confirmed to the group that he was looking forward to learning more about the Animal Welfare scheme and getting to know the visitors.

The DPCC reiterated the PCC's sentiments and said that she was very happy to be in post, working towards the PCC's priorities. She informed the group that engagement with groups such as this would be vital going forward.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Chief Inspector Emma Williams (RSPCA), Ms Michelle Vaisey-Baker and the new Dog Section Sergeant, Martin Cawley.

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016**

The minutes were confirmed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **4 MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Lisa Winnett (LW) made the group aware that she and Martin Evans (ME) had attended Waterton to carry out a visit of the kennels and witnessed a numbers of matters they wished to bring to the attention of JP and the group. These matters were:

1. PD Mel was timid in nature with thinning fur around the eyes.
2. PD Krissy was seen as being aggressive towards PD Cato who was in the enclosure next door. PD Monty, who was also sharing an enclosure with PD Cato, seemed affected by this.

The PCC left the meeting to attend a previously arranged commitment.

JP thanked LW and ME for feeding this information back to her. She reassured the group that PD Mel was used to being in kennels and that it was common for some dogs to change their behaviour when their environments were changed. In relation to the incident with PDs Krissy, Monty and Cato, she confirmed she would raise this with their handlers and ask that if they were kennelled together in future, that they be placed in pens which were not adjoining. LW asked that contact be made with South Wales to ask if solid partitioning could be installed between the enclosures as the current chain-link fencing was not satisfactory. The Assistant Scheme Administrator (JT) agreed to take this action forward following the meeting.

JT

#### **5 OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM THE DOG SECTION SERGEANT**

JP updated the group on the Dog Section. We were provided with an updated list of Gwent Police dogs and their handlers. Updates on this list included:

- A new Dog Handler had been recruited, PC Rhion Weston. Rhion had always had an interest in the dog section and was looking forward to working with a new dog, PD Ibex who was currently undergoing the basic training course.
- Three new general purpose dogs had been trained, PD Cody, PD Mel and PD Wish.
- PC Gareth Thomas had been assigned PD Wish and his existing dog, PD Ollie, had successfully trained as a narcotics search dog.
- PC Gavin Ashman had been assigned PD Mel.
- PC Paul Booth had been assigned PD Cody.
- PD Molly was now assigned to JP and retired PD Hilda was now living with JP's parents.

JP also confirmed to the group that there would be Gwent Police Dog Trials in 2016. It was aimed that this would take place in November. She confirmed that she would inform the group of the firm dates once they were known. She also confirmed that the national dog trials would be held in Avon and Somerset and assured everyone that she would notify the group of the date for this event.

**6 SCHEME UPDATE – VERBAL**

SC provided the group with the Scheme Update. It was confirmed that a number of members had left the scheme in August. This left 7 active members. SC asked whether the group felt this was a satisfactory number or would they like to recruit. Mr John Harry confirmed to the group that he would be stepping down from the scheme with immediate effect due to health reasons. The whole group passed on their best wishes to Mr Harry and thanked him for his long service to the scheme.

It was agreed that DCI Smith (RSPCA) would be contacted to query whether she wished to remain on the scheme as a formal visiting member of the group whilst continuing to be invited to the meetings for advice and support. As this would possibly leave only 5 active members, it was decided a recruitment process would need to be held. SC confirmed that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) would take this forward.

SC/  
MVB/  
JT  
SC

We were informed that the South Wales scheme minutes had not yet been received by the OPCC, but that they would be shared as soon as they were available.

We were made aware of the new Waterton report form which was to be completed at only the Waterton visits. It was asked why the 'Number of Police Officers onsite' needed to be recorded. It was confirmed that this was to monitor whether there was adequate staff on site to monitor and care for the dog's effectivity. LW confirmed that there was only one officer onsite during her recent visit. SC informed the group that she would look into this further with the contracts department of Gwent Police as they provide funding for an additional officer on-site.

SC

A letter which was sent to all members in August 2016 asking whether they wanted a change in the time of the Animal Welfare scheme meetings had received no responses. It was therefore agreed that the 4pm time was suitable for all members.

**7 RECRUITMENT**

This was discussed under item 6.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**


No further business was identified.

*The meeting concluded at 4.50pm.*

**9 DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Animal Welfare Meeting has been scheduled for 4pm on

**13<sup>th</sup> February, 2017** in **Conference Room 1**. Please can all visitors note that they will be required to go to the main Police Headquarters reception to gain access to the meeting room. Attendance before 4pm is advisable as the main reception doors are locked from 4pm.

<b>Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent</b>	
I have monitored the Animal Welfare Scheme Minutes and am satisfied with progress.	
Signed 	Date 20/3/17
Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None