

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2019-016



**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD ON 18th FEBRUARY 2019, 4.00PM
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG**

PRESENT: Mr Martyn Evans – Chair
Mrs Gill Mason
Ms Jennifer Deasington
Councillor Lisa Winnett
Emma Smith, RSPCA Deputy Chief Inspector
Chief Inspector Martin Smith
PC 728 Jim Watkins, Dog Section
PC 1169 Marc Porter, Dog Section
Miss Jessica Tippins – Communications and Engagement Officer, OPCC
Mrs Nicola Warren – Scheme Administrator, OPCC
Mrs Ceri Davis – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC

The meeting began at 4.00pm

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Herbert and PS Julie Pearse.	ACTION
2	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 22ND OCTOBER 2018 The minutes and actions were tabled for discussion at the meeting because they were unable to be opened when sent in the agenda. These minutes were agreed to be an accurate reflection of the meeting.	
3	MATTERS ARISING Members requested an electronic copy of the visiting record form and for the lay visitors contact details be emailed out.	CD
4	SCHEME UPDATE Jessica Tippins (JT) informed us that as part of her new role as Communication and Engagement Officer she would be doing a video package promoting the Volunteer Schemes and asked if anyone would like to be the face of the Animal Welfare Scheme to contact her direct.	ALL

	<p>JT introduced Ceri Davis (CD) as the new Scheme Administration Assistant who had replaced Michelle Vaisey-Baker. She also introduced Nicola Warren as the new Scheme Administrator.</p> <p>JT informed us that the visiting form had been updated but that it would no longer be in a carbon copy book as this was very expensive.</p> <p>It was agreed that the new form would be completed during a visit and sent into the OPCC office where a copy would then be sent to the Dog Section and a copy emailed to the visitor for their records. As always, if there were any problems/concerns, visitors were asked to contact the OPCC so they could be addressed.</p> <p>JT confirmed that the Waterton form would remain the same.</p> <p>JT informed us that the meetings would be held every six months if agendas were not appropriately filled. This would be put as an item on the next agenda for update/confirmation. JT suggested that if visitors would like to meet up at police headquarters for a discussion between the allotted meetings then that could be arranged, but it would not be a formal meeting including the dog handlers and OPCC. Jennifer Deasington (JD) suggested that this would be good to have towards the end of the year to ensure that every dog had been visited within the year. It was agreed that visitors would inform the OPCC should they want a room booked.</p> <p>JT advised us that CD was now producing a performance framework spreadsheet which was sent out on the agenda but was not able to be opened. A separate copy would be sent to all following the meeting. Once populated at the end of each month, CD will send it to all visitors to inform them which dogs had been visited and any key issues raised. It was agreed that any embedded documents within the agenda would be sent as a separate attachment to ensure there were no issues with opening documents.</p> <p>Visitors were asked to keep note of when their ID cards were due to expire so that visitors could link in with the OPCC to arrange replacement ID as and when appropriate. OPCC will also keep a record of this.</p> <p>Visitors were also reminded that if there were any issues regarding conducting visits, to contact the Chair and Vice Chair in the first instance.</p>	<p>ALL/CD</p> <p>ALL/CD</p> <p>CD</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
5	<p>WATERTON VISIT Martyn Evans (ME) informed us that he had carried out the recent Waterton visit with Caroline Herbert. We were made aware that there was a new kennel hand who was very good. He confirmed that the dogs were all in good condition.</p>	
6	OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM DOG SECTION	

We were advised that the Dog Section provided many updates on Twitter, but that not all the handlers used Twitter. As such, this update report captured work done by everyone in the Dog Section.

We were provided with a summary of some of the activities that the dogs have been involved in with further detail provided by PC Jim Watkins (JW).

There had been some good work by the section around tracking of offenders and burglars. The drugs dogs had also been very successful with significant finds.

JW informed us that two retired dogs had passed away, PD Jack and PD Blitz.

We were advised that PC James had a positive result with PD Mink recently. PC James had finished a drugs course for the day and was not operational with PD Mink. PD Mink had not worked for around a month when a call came over the radio. PC James attended due to his close proximity and had a positive result locating a missing person within half an hour.

JW informed us that PD Jess had now retired.

There were a few new additions to the section, including PD Jim, an explosive search dog, and PD Ralph and PD Ruby who were both drugs trained.


We were informed that PD Noah had some skin allergies, which, it is thought could be mites within the old style kennel. PD Noah also had a broken tail, which had been amputated, but is making a full recovery. PD Sophie had displayed some lameness, which was currently being investigated. This had led to the discovery of a tumor in her spine. She is now under referral so will only conduct light duties for the foreseeable future. PD Sophie's MRI scan was shown to us and Chief Inspector Martin Smith (MS) informed us that depending on the referral outcome, PD Sophie may be medically retired. An update would be provided to members in due course.

JD asked that the thoughts and best wishes of the Scheme were passed on to the handler and PD Sophie.

We were updated on the Avon and Somerset dog handler that was involved in an accident whilst on duty in their vehicle. The dogs were fine and currently with other handlers but the handler was still very poorly, albeit making slow progress.

	<p>MS informed us that two new handlers had also been recruited. One had been trained in the summer, the second will start in March and will have a dog around May time.</p> <p>MS updated us on the dog baths, which were near completion and would be located in Blackwood Police Station. It was agreed to hold an opening ceremony with animal welfare visitors invited.</p> <p>MS informed us that the kennels at handler's homes were being reviewed and that Gwent Police would prioritise which kennels needed to be replaced or repaired.</p> <p>The group thanked the Dog Section for their update and in particular, for the report on what work the dogs had been doing. It was confirmed that the Dog Section would continue to provide this type of information on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>It was requested that an up to date list of dogs and handlers be sent out to all visitors.</p>	
7	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>JT confirmed the regional dog trials schedule and said she would send a copy around to all. The Police and Crime Commissioner had been asked to present the 'Dog Team of the Year' award should he be available.</p> <p>JD asked if there was any impact on the section following the review of the death of PD Ivy from West Mercia. There were a number of guidelines and recommendations within the report of which Gwent adhered to already. One area which did need to be looked into further was the air conditioning and fans which feed into the caged area of the vehicle. The dog section confirmed that the fans would need to be checked and that the air conditioning would need to be re-gassed every year. Dog handlers were also expected to attend dog first aid training courses.</p> <p>JT handed out a volunteer safety guidance document which provided guidance on ID safety. This was for members to have awareness of so she asked that everybody read it. We were informed that this information was not to scare anybody, just some general advice in respect of ID badges not being worn whilst outside of animal welfare visiting duties.</p> <p>ME asked about the scheme members observing the dog training sessions. PC Watkins confirmed that an offer was open to all scheme members to observe training. Each handler was allocated a four-day training session. It was agreed for CD to obtain the training rota from PC Watkins and pass onto the scheme members.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>CD</p>

	<p>JT informed us of the National Dog Trials being hosted in Gwent this year between 16-19th May. PS Pearse was to send out the final timing schedule in due course.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Gwent Police 'Behind the Badge' event would be held on 2nd June 2019. The OPCC had been given the Crownbridge School Hall to utilise and it was suggested to have volunteers there promoting what they do (depending on volunteers' availability on the day). PC Watkins suggested possibly having the scheme members situated with the dog section at the event. An update on this would be sent out in due course.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JT</p>
8	<p>DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next Animal Welfare Meeting has been scheduled for 4pm on 24th June 2019 in Meeting Room 96.</p> <p>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.</p>	

Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	
I have monitored the Animal Welfare Scheme Minutes and am satisfied with progress.	
Signed	Date
	18/3/19
Contact Officer	
Name	Jessica Tippins
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Background papers	None

