

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2013-117

MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER, 2013
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG

Present: Mr E J HARRY (Chair)
Mrs L Buchanan-Smith
Ms G Mason
Mr M Evans
Mr G Lucas
Mrs V Dudley
Inspector E Smith (RSPCA)
Inspector Ian Wilkinson – Dog Section
Sgt Julie Pearce – Dog Section
Mr Paul Harris, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Mrs Maria Chapman, Scheme Administrator
Ms Michelle Vaisey-Baker, Assistant Scheme Administrator

Apologies: Mrs Sian Curley
Superintendent Nigel Russell

The meeting began at 4pm

1 Minutes of last Meeting – 16th July 2013

ACTION

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

Mr Lucas clarified that in respect of Item 3 (Rota's) on the minutes he had conducted a visit in a different month on one occasion as he was showing Inspector Emma Smith what was required as she had not done one before, this was agreed with Sergeant Henry beforehand.

2 Revised Animal Welfare Visitor Handbook

We were advised that the handbook is currently in draft and will be ready for the next meeting, it was clarified that this incorporates the guidance that all volunteers should be following.

MC

3 De-brief on the Animal Welfare Visit to Bridgend Dog Kennels

A report provided by Mrs Chapman on the visit to Waterton kennels was circulated to everyone with the minutes. It was noted that both Mr Lucas and Inspector Emma Smith had attended and were pleased with the provisions as they stood from an RSPCA viewpoint. PS Newman, the SWP guide advised that the kennels were due for a full refurbishment end of September 2013. This would include all walls being lined with

Perspex and impermeable flooring being fitted. This would greatly improve the level of hygiene in the kennels. The refurbishment would be completed by the end of the year and a follow up visit would be arranged for Spring 2014.

It was noted that the kennels provided a good level of care & grooming facilities and the husbandry arrangements were very good. The food store is excellent with different feed stocked for dogs that have differing dietary requirements.

It was noted that the cost of Gwent Police dogs to be kennelled at Waterton is £10 per week (from 1 – 7 days). The number of Gwent dogs varies and dogs generally only get kennelled there when their handlers are going away for a period of time or are injured in some way that would prevent them caring for and walking the dogs as required. We were advised that Gwent Police also pay for one person to work there too. Mr Harry requested that Mrs Chapman draft a letter from those who attended to thank PS Newman.

MC

The group were advised that the South Wales Police kennels have also liaised with Dog Trust and have accessed, free of charge, around 80 kennels of the highest standard that have been transported to Bridgend and will be reassembled once funding is available. This would greatly increase the kennels capacity to host training events, etc. The kennels are currently being stored free of charge for 12 months by a local haulage company in Bridgend.

Mr Lucas requested if it was possible to establish if South Wales Animal Welfare Volunteers are doing regular spot check visits to the dog kennels like Gwent Volunteers used to do when the dogs were based in Glascoed. It is noted that PS Newman has said that Gwent volunteers are welcome to attend Waterton at any time however it is not always practical and volunteers feel that they may be encroaching on their area. Mrs Chapman advised that she would liaise with Sue Poole the Scheme Administrator for South Wales and provide an update at the next meeting. Sergeant Pearse advised she would be able to link in with her colleagues in the South Wales Dog Section to establish if there are any problems.

MC

PS Newman also made all those who attended aware of a book that is being launched called 'A Hero's Tail' this book gives true life stories of police dogs and their handlers that will be used to raise funds. This will be available through the website www.aherostail.org and amazon.

Mrs Chapman advised that during the visit to Waterton, Mr Harry agreed that they would start making regular six monthly visits. The next visit will be organised by Mrs Chapman next year after the refurbishment has been completed.

MC

4 Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Introduction

Mr Harris introduced himself to everyone advising that this has been the first opportunity he has been able to attend a meeting since being in post. He expressed his thanks to everyone for their hard work and advised all that if there are any concerns they wish to raise at any point not to feel they need to wait until the next meeting but to raise them with the Scheme Administrators who will highlight the concerns immediately to himself and the Commissioner.

Mr Harris left the meeting

5 Update from Dog Section

Sergeant Pearse updated us on the figures and reports for July and August, these have been circulated to all volunteers for their information.

Inspector Wilkinson advised us that PC Andy North and PD Kenny will be featured in an article in the Argus soon following an outstanding track they conducted in Bettws recently, the details of which will be included on the September update reports when they are circulated. We were advised however that this incident resulted in four arrests being made; each individual being tracked separately. As well as an additional two youths being located during the track that were missing from Forest Lodge, one of whom was wanted by police. Gwent Police Corporate Communications Department will also be providing an article on this. Inspector Wilkinson informed us that he is also nominating PC North for a Chief Constable's award, the paperwork for which is in progress.

Mrs Chapman queried whether there were any issues with the rotas both from a Dog Section perspective and from the volunteers. No problems were noted. PS Pearse advised she will contact Mrs Chapman if there are any issues in the future.

It was noted that there has been minimal attendance at meetings by the Councillors who sit on the scheme with the exception of Councillor Winnett. Mrs Chapman was requested to write to Democratic Services to highlight this matter for those who don't attend to ask that some representation would be appreciated.

MC

6 Any Other Business

Inspector Wilkinson advised us that the Dog Trials will take place in December the details of which will be circulated to all once everything has been confirmed. He proposed that we could potentially hold a meeting the same day if required. Mrs Chapman advised we would confirm this at the time if needed as the next meeting is scheduled for February. Inspector Wilkinson also advised us that Gwent will be hosting the regional dog trials in March. Details will be circulated nearer the time.

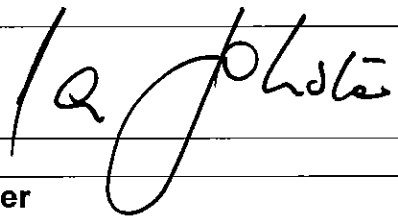
It was requested that Mrs Chapman send a letter of thanks to Sergeant Henry from all the volunteers together with flowers. Mr Harry contributed the money for this on behalf of all the volunteers, Mrs Chapman confirmed she would arrange this.

MC

We were informed that the Summerhill Vets contract has been extended until April. Procurement will be putting the contract out to tender in anticipation of this ending.

5 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 3rd February 2014 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
	28-10-13
Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None