



**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD REMOTELY ON 29 JUNE 2020, 2.00PM**

PRESENT: Mr Martyn Evans – Chair (ME)
 Ms Jennifer Deasington (JD)
 Mrs Lisa Winnett (LW)
 Mrs Caroline Herbert (CH)
 Chief Inspector Martyn Smith- Dog Section (MS)
 Sergeant Julie Pearse – Dog Section (JP)
 Mrs Nicola Warren – Scheme Administrator, OPCC
 Mrs Ceri Davis – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC

The meeting began at 2.00pm

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTION
	Apologies for absence were received from Laura Buchanan-Smith, Elis Park and Gillian Mason.	
2	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25th FEBRUARY 2020	
	The minutes were agreed to be an accurate reflection of the meeting and we noted that all actions had been completed.	
3	SCHEME UPDATE	
	<p>In order to provide continuity of service NW informed the visitors that due to the impact of Covid19 a decision had been made to extend the tenures by one year for those whose tenure was due to expire in 2021, provided visitors were in agreement. This would allow time for the recruitment process to be undertaken and the relevant training of the new visitors to take place. The visitors in attendance agreed with the extension of the tenure. Confirmation would be sought from visitors not in attendance.</p> <p>A discussion ensued in relation to visits resuming. NW informed the visitors that visits could resume providing the required risk assessments had been conducted and that they took place outside in accordance with social distancing guidelines. It was confirmed that indoor visits would not be permitted. NW advised that the resumption of visits would also be dependent on the number of visitors who wished to resume visits and stated that all visits should take place in pairs.</p>	CD

	<p>NW asked for the visitors to confirm in writing if they wished to resume visits. Provided there was sufficient capacity and the required risk assessments were completed, it was expected that visits could resume during August. CD would send an email to all visitors to ascertain numbers. Should there be sufficient numbers, a new rota would be collated and distributed by the Chair.</p> <p>NW advised us that the recruitment process had been delayed for the time being but would resume as soon as practicable.</p> <p>Documentation from the Dogs Trust had been circulated to visitors and the Dog Section for review and was positively received. NW informed us that The Dogs Trust had been invited to the meeting to ascertain if they could offer any additional support to that of the RSPCA but due to Covid19 attendance of the Dogs Trust representative had been postponed on this occasion. The representative would be asked to attend a future meeting instead.</p> <p>CD informed us that the current RSPCA representative was off duty due to the pandemic.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CD</p> <p>CD</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>OPERATIONAL UPDATE</p> <p>JP informed us that due to Covid19 changes, training had been suspended which allowed more support to be provided to local policing areas. There had been a significant amount of work undertaken by the Dog Section as could be seen on the Gwent Police social media accounts and their website.</p> <p>With the suspension of training there were no new dogs being recruited therefore, JP's dog who was due to retire would continue working for now.</p> <p>JP advised us that three new dogs had joined the section, all of whom required new homes as they had come from All Creatures Great and Small animal sanctuary. They were all showing potential to be good drugs dogs. Although training had been delayed, they were considering the services of a civilian trainer to help get back up to speed.</p> <p>JP informed us that PD Eddy had retired and remained with PC North and was enjoying his retirement.</p> <p>JP confirmed that there were currently fifteen dog handlers and that they were to receive two additional vehicles which would help with flexibility of the team.</p> <p>JP advised us that a visit to Usk had taken place to establish if it was feasible for the Dog Kennels to be relocated from Waterton (the kennels shared with South Wales Police) and for the team to be centralised. The kennels there were in need of some maintenance.</p>	

	<p>A work demand review was due to take place which would give the Dog Section the ability to explore different locations with different options and opportunities.</p> <p>MS informed the visitors that facemasks could be supplied should they require them for their visits.</p>	
5	<p>WATERTON VISIT</p> <p>It was agreed by all that visits to Waterton Kennels would cease for now.</p> <p>NW informed us that an update could be obtained on the welfare of the dogs held in Waterton. JP advised us that there had not been any of Gwent Police dogs there due to the current situation with Covid19, therefore no update would be required.</p>	
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>We discussed holding the meetings online going forward. NW advised that not all visitors had the technology to enable this and some visitors did not wish to call in using the dial in option. It was suggested that consideration be given to some visitors attending HQ to join the meeting online. NW agreed to consider the option but explained that the meeting would have to be accessible to all visitors.</p>	
7.	<p>DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next Animal Welfare Meeting has been scheduled for 4pm on 26th October 2020 in Conference Room 1.</p>	

Meeting finished at 2:40pm

Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MDIPD, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	
<p>I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.</p> <p>Any such interests are recorded below. The above request has my approval.</p>	
<p>Signed</p> 	<p>Date</p> <p>04.08.20</p>

Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None