

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2016-048

**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2016, 4.00PM
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG**

PRESENT: Mr Martyn Evans - Chair
Mr E J HARRY
Councillor Lisa Winnett – Blaenau Gwent
Mrs Laura Buchanan-Smith
Ms Gill Mason
Sgt Julie Pearce - Dog Section, Gwent Police
Maria Chapman – Scheme Administrator, OPCC
Jessica Tippins – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC

The meeting began at 4.00pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE ACTION

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Paul Harris, Inspector Kate Parker, Ms Val Dudley and Cllr Tom Bond.

2 NOMINATION OF CHAIR

John HARRY (JH) confirmed to the group that although he would like to stay on the scheme as a visitor, he wished to retire as Chair.

A discussion was held around the nomination of a new chair. It was agreed that a temporary chair would be appointed whilst the scheme review was in process. Following this, another election procedure would take place.

Martyn Evans (ME) was nominated as temporary Chair.

JH thanked the group for their support during his time as Chair and wished ME the best of luck. ME thanked JH for his contribution and commitment to the scheme. Maria Chapman (MC) and Sergeant Julie Pearce (JP) reiterated the sentiment.

3 DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner sent his apologies for the meeting.

4 CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING OF 22ND OCTOBER 2015

We received and confirmed the minutes from the meeting held on the 22nd October 2015. The following was highlighted:

John HARRY raised that his name had been incorrectly spelt on the previous meetings minutes. This has since been amended.

ME asked that a 'Matters Arising' item be added to future agendas.

JT

5 OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM THE DOG SECTION SERGEANT

JP updated the group on the Dog Section. We were made aware of the following:

- 2 new dogs had been welcomed onto the scheme, PD OLLIE and PD KODI. Both were undergoing training and therefore not yet licensed.
- PD COV had been licensed as a general purpose dog.
- PD NOAH and PD FALK were offering firearms support.
- Two dogs had retired. PD BLIX retired at the age of 10 and was living with his handler, PC BOOTH. PC BOOTH would therefore be taking on a new general purpose dog. PD JOEY had also retired at the age of 8 with his handler, PC JONES, who had completed his 30 years service.
- The dog section had run a recruitment process and as a result, PC ASHMAN would be joining the section as its newest handler.
- PC THORNE was retiring on medical grounds. We were made aware that PD ZIGGY had retired with him.
- PC PRICE was currently on sick leave. His dogs PD HILDA and PD MOLLY had therefore been re-homed with another handler.
- Out of the 13 Officers, there were currently only nine operational in the dog section as a total of three were on sick leave.

The members of the group asked JP to pass on their get well wishes to all staff on sick leave.

ME thanked JP for her update.

6 SCHEME UPDATE

MC presented the scheme update. A discussion was held regarding the scheme as it currently stands. We were made aware that a one or two members consistently carry out visits but due to work commitments are unable to attend the meetings. It was also asked whether visitors could carry out visits alone. MC confirmed that this was not allowed under Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) policy for a number of reasons. The key reason being that two visitors allowed for a much higher level of scrutiny. MC made the group aware that the scheme review was still on-going and it was therefore likely that another task and finish group would be needed. It was agreed that a group would be organised in March to discuss progression on the actions identified at the January meeting.

JT

It was reinforced to the group that two visit report forms were to be sent to the OPCC who would then pass them on to the Dog Section Sergeant. The third report form was to be retained by the visitors for their personal records.

MC made the group aware that a number of issues were raised at the last visit to the Waterton kennels. The full response to these issues was included in the scheme update handout and was noted by the group. Gill Mason (GM) raised her concern regarding the response from South Wales under section 6.3 (v). This was echoed by all members of the group. MC confirmed she would raise this matter on the groups behalf.

MC

7 FINDINGS FROM THE TASK & FINISH GROUP

We reviewed the findings from the task and finish group held in January. MC distributed a number of planned actions which were noted by the group. It was agreed that these actions would be discussed further at a future task and finish group.

It was asked by JP that all visitors contact her direct stating the most convenient time and place in order to schedule a visit. It was asked however that visitors avoid arranging visits between 6-8pm due to shift change overs.

MC confirmed to the group that once the scheme review had been completed, all members would be required to sign a volunteer agreement.

It was agreed that the Dog Section would tweet once a visit had taken place in order to increase publicity of the scheme.

MC thanked JT for her work conducting the January task and finish group meeting.

8 EXERCISE OF DOGS AT WATERTON KENNELS

This was discussed under item 6 – Scheme Update.

9 RSPCA UPDATE

We acknowledged the RSPCA update.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lisa Winnett (LW) emphasised her support for the new dogs and wished them well in the future.

The meeting concluded at 5:05pm.

11 DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Animal Welfare Meeting has been scheduled for **4pm** on **6th June 2016** 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.

Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I have monitored the Animal Welfare Scheme Minutes and am satisfied with progress.

Signed



Date

7/7/16

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Background papers	None