

**DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2019-040**



**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING  
HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019, 4.00PM  
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG**

**PRESENT:** Martyn Evans – Chair  
Gill Mason  
Jennifer Deasington  
Councillor Lisa Winnett  
Laura Buchanan-Smith  
Chief Inspector Martyn Smith  
PC Andrew North  
Nicola Warren – Scheme Administrator, OPCC  
Jordan Watkins – Policy and Research Assistant, OPCC


The meeting began at 4.00pm

1	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	<b>Action</b>
2	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>  The minutes were agreed to be an accurate reflection of the meeting.	
3	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  No matters were raised.	
4	<b>SCHEME UPDATE</b>  Nicola Warren (NW) confirmed that she had reviewed the Visitor Framework and that there had been no change to the number of volunteers on the scheme. There were no issues maintaining the current scheme and carrying out the number of visits required.  It was noted that some members of the scheme were not regularly attending meetings, placing pressure on a small number of volunteers to carry out required responsibilities. Additionally, the irregular	

	<p>attendance raised concerns around continuity and consistent standards across all volunteers.</p> <p><b>Action: NW to contact attendees to ask visitors if there is a reason that they are unable to attend meetings.</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>NW</b></p>
5	<p><b>Vetting</b></p> <p>NW provided a reminder to volunteers regarding the need to complete outstanding vetting forms. Some attendees stated that their ID cards were now out of date. NW recorded the names of those with out of date ID cards and agreed to follow this up.</p> <p><b>Action: NW to follow up on getting updated ID cards for volunteers with expired cards.</b></p>	<p><b>NW</b></p>
6	<p><b>OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM DOG SECTION</b></p> <p>Due to the busy period following the National Dog Trials and Force Open Day, there was no formal operational update available.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Smith provided a verbal update on a recent successful firearms investigation involving a deployment of police dogs to assist with D-Day celebrations in Portsmouth.</p> <p>PC North informed us of Police Dog (PD) Ned who had been involved in the successful arrest of perpetrators involved in cash machine fraud.</p> <p>NW suggested that the Force publish recent successful operations on Twitter to promote positive news stories.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Smith stated that the Force were currently in the process of recruiting two new handlers. The new handlers will be active from the end of August. Volunteers were invited to observe training sessions for new handlers.</p> <p><b>Action: Chief Inspector Smith to speak to Corporate Communications about the publishing of successful operations on social media</b></p> <p><b>Action: Chief Inspector Smith to enquire about arrangements for volunteers to observe training sessions for new handlers.</b></p>	<p><b>CH/Insp. MS</b></p> <p><b>Ch/Insp. MS &amp; PC AN</b></p>
7	<p><b>VISIT FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>NW noted that this agenda item was for information and that no changes had been made to the number of visits in the framework.</p>	

	<p><b>LIST OF CURRENT DOG HANDLERS</b></p> <p>PC North drew attention to an error in the list. PC Wood's dog had been listed as drugs dog, but was actually an explosives dog.</p> <p><b>Action: Ceri Davls (CD) to amend the error regarding PC Wood's dog in list of current dog handlers.</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>CD</b></p>
	<p><b>WATERTON</b></p> <p>The next visit to Waterton was to be arranged in August. Martyn Evans (ME) volunteered to attend with Jennifer Deasington (JD).</p> <p>JD asked if PC North had any concerns over the conditions dogs were kept in at Waterton. PC North stated the kennels were to expected standards, although admittedly no handler wants to place their dogs in kennels. Also, there were now fewer dogs being kept in the kennels.</p> <p>There were discussions around whether the kennels were to be sold. PC North stated that there had been no official confirmation as yet.</p> <p>Gill Mason raised concerns over the lack of cover provided to dogs during heat. PC North agreed that he shared concerns over the thought of dogs being left in the heat. However, the dogs did not spend extended periods of time outside. The visitors were satisfied that the handler was aware of the issue and had provided reassurance.</p> <p><b>Action: JD to link in with ME to arrange August visit to Waterton.</b></p>	<p><b>ME/JD</b></p>
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Lisa Winnett (LW) stated that she and JD had recently attended a training session with the Force's Dog Section. The session was very positive and offered a good insight into how handlers interacted with and trained their dogs.</p> <p>PC North queried the process of how completed inspection forms were returned to Officers by visitors following an inspection. NW to follow up to gain clarity on the current procedure for submitting forms. Once reasoning behind current procedure had been determined, feedback would be provided on whether the process could be altered to remove the need for submitting paper copies to OPCC.</p> <p><b>Action: NW to gain clarity on current procedure for submitting inspection forms to OPCC and Officers.</b></p>	<p><b>NW</b></p>

<b>8</b>	<b>DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>The next Animal Welfare Meeting had been scheduled for <u>4pm</u> on <u>28<sup>th</sup> October 2019</u> in <u>Conference Room 1 HQ</u>.</p> <p>Please could 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>	

<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
	6/8/19
Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None