

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2020-014

**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2020, 4.00PM
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG**

PRESENT: Mr Martyn Evans – Chair
 Ms Jennifer Deasington
 Mrs Laura Buchanan-Smith
 Mr Elis Park
 Mr Martyn Smith - Chief Inspector
 Mrs Nicola Warren – Scheme Administrator, OPCC
 Mrs Ceri Davis – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC

The meeting began at 4.00pm

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTION
	Apologies for absence were received from Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner, Cllr Lisa Winnett, Gillian Mason, Caroline Herbert, and Emma Smith.	
2	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 28th OCTOBER 2019 The minutes were agreed to be an accurate reflection of the meeting and all actions completed	
3	CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS Ceri Davis (CD) informed the visitors that a nomination process had been undertaken for Chair and Vice Chair and Martyn Evans (ME) had been put forward to remain as Chair and Jennifer Deasington (JD) to remain as Vice Chair. Both ME and JD confirmed they would be happy to remain in post. Nicola Warren (NW) thanked them both for continuing in their roles.	
4	MATTERS ARISING A discussion was held regarding the timeliness of recruiting new visitors as many of the existing visitors' tenures ended at the same time in August 2021. Visitors were concerned that a delay in recruitment would not allow	

	<p>the new visitors enough time to gain experience before they left the scheme.</p> <p>NW advised that the number of new recruits was yet to be decided and that a recruitment drive would take place in the coming months to ensure there would be enough time for new visitors to gain the necessary experience. The visitors would be kept updated.</p> <p>NW highlighted that some visitors were attending more visits than others and asked the visitors to ensure they were carrying out the expected number of visits according to the scheme guidelines.</p>	CD
5	<p>SCHEME UPDATE</p> <p>NW advised the visitors that all scheduled visits had been carried out and that the Gwent Police Dog Trials were due to take place Friday 28th February 2020 should the visitors be available to attend. JD confirmed she would be attending with Lisa Winnett (LW).</p> <p>NW confirmed that visitors would be kept informed with any information received regarding upcoming events.</p> <p>NW confirmed that the issue raised with handlers refusing to remove the dog from the van for inspection had now been addressed. Handlers have been advised that there are many ways the visual check can be facilitated with the dog in a position of control, on a lead or even a short round of obedience. It may be inappropriate in some cases for any physical interaction with the visitors, particularly with some General Purpose Dogs, however the visit still needs to be facilitated and the dog checked visually by the visitors. This cannot be completed if the dog does not leave the vehicle cage.</p>	CD
6	<p>OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM DOG SECTION</p> <p>Martyn Smith (MS) informed the visitors that he and Sergeant Pearse would be attending Glascoed at the beginning of March 2020, with the view on making a decision to see if it would be financially viable to move back to kenneling at Glascoed from Waterton.</p> <p>MS advised the visitors that he would send some tweets regarding the operational work of the dogs to CD for circulation with the minutes.</p>	MS
7.	<p>RUNNING OF THE SCHEME</p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to the new Animal Welfare scheme at the Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the guidance provided by the Dogs Trust. NW agreed to contact their office</p>	NW

	for details regarding the scheme to ascertain if it differed to that of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals guidance.	
8.	<p>VISIT FRAMEWORK</p> <p>NW noted that no changes had been made to the number of visits in the framework. The framework requires one visit per month to take place and is recorded along with the names of the volunteers who carried out the visit, the dogs visited and any comments or concerns noted. This ensures different dogs are visited each month.</p>	
9.	<p>WATERTON VISIT</p> <p>CD advised the visitors that the scheduled visit to Waterton in February would have to take place in March as no Gwent Police dogs were due to be kennelled there in February and the scheduled August 2020 visit would have to move to September 2020.</p> <p>A discussion was held to determine the correct process to follow when arranging a Waterton visit. It was agreed that the visitors would contact Sergeant Pearse to ascertain if Gwent Police were due to have any dogs at the kennels at the proposed date. Visitors should notify the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of the scheduled visit date. NW informed the visitors she would send them confirmation of the correct process.</p>	NW
12.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Laura Buchanan-Smith (LBS) requested that a copy of the current visit rota to be sent to her in the post.</p> <p>Elis Park (EP) advised the visitors that he had applied to be a Special Police Constable with South Wales Police and had an interview date of early March. EP to email the details to CD and keep the OPCC updated.</p>	CD EP
13.	<p>DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next Animal Welfare Meeting has been scheduled for 4pm on 29th June 2020 in Conference Room 1.</p>	

Meeting finished at 16:40

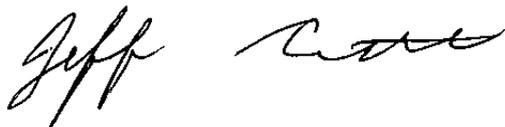
Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MDIPD, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

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.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signed



Date

18.05.2020

Contact Officer

Name

Nicola Warren

Position

Governance Officer

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Background papers