

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
DOG ISSUES WORKING GROUP
HELD ON
17th DECEMBER, 2014
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Clegg (Chairman in the Chair)

Councillor D. M. Whipp

Councillor P. White

Also present:

<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Deputy Chief Executive</i>
<i>David Whalley</i>	<i>Waste Services Manager</i>
<i>Kieron Roberts</i>	<i>Parks Development Officer</i>
<i>David Alexander</i>	<i>Senior Environmental Crime Officer</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Assistant Solicitor</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Senior Committee Administrator</i>



6. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November, 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. RESOURCES

The Waste Services Manager submitted a report on the Council's dog warden and kennelling contract. The Council, along with Hyndburn Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council had awarded the dog kennelling contract to Aspen Valley Kennels and Cattery. The contract ran for a period of three years from 30th September, 2014.

The report included details of the current staffing structure in relation to the Dog Wardens and the Environmental Crime Team along with their hours of work.

Although the hours operated varied between the summer and winter months i.e. starting earlier or finishing later there was a perception by the public that an 'out of hours' service was not provided. Details of the hours the contracted dog kennelling service operated was set out in the report.

A comparison of services provided by other Lancashire Councils was also included in the report. It appeared that Councils either had their own in-house dog wardens and own kennelling contract, or used an external body such as Animal Wardens to fulfil the statutory role of collecting stray dogs to take to the Council's contracted kennels or the Animal Warden's kennels.

During discussions the role of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) in relation to enforcement, particularly around dog fouling, was raised. Tasking meetings were held with officers and the PCSO's on a monthly basis and patrols undertaken together. It was felt that because of

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the 'high visibility' of PCSO's the issuing of fixed penalty notices was low but it was also felt that this was a low priority for them.

After a lengthy discussion the Group felt that the issue of whether or not increased resources were required could not be answered until the results of the survey were known. Officers felt that the current Dog Warden service worked well with responses being made to calls within 20/30 minutes.

AGREED

That the issue of resources be considered further following the outcome of the Dog Issues survey.

8. SURVEY

It was reported that 390 responses to the Dog Survey had been received to date. The deadline for responses was 18th January, 2015.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting be held on Wednesday 21st January, 2015 starting at 6.30 p.m. at Nelson Town Hall.

Chairman _____