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Minutes of Dog Fouling Working Group

Meeting Date: Monday, 26 July 2021, starting at 10.30 am
Present: Councillor J Alcock (Chair)

Councillors: R Newmark

In attendance: Director of Community Services and Acting Head of Environmental Health

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mary Robinson and Marshal Scott.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2021 were approved as a correct record.

It was noted that the Terms of Reference had been revised to reflect a change of membership to the working group and the number of members required to be quorate.

The revised Terms of Reference are attached to these minutes.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

4 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

John Heap (Director of Community Services) noted that he had reviewed three iterations of the litter prevention notices and would choose the most appropriate and decide on the most suitable words.

At the meeting the working group considered:

- The use of body cameras by dog wardens and authorised officers to consider the legal and health and safety aspects of dog wardens wearing such devices and to examine the working practices of dog wardens wearing the cameras.
- The role of dog wardens and where their emphasis should be placed namely: enforcement, educational or bin emptying.
- The need to increase the number of bins currently in use in the Borough, the type and size of bins to use, the locations they should be placed, and the role parish councils have in the provision and emptying of bins.

On the above point, the group authorised John Heap to consult with officers and prepare a report that examined the costs (capital and revenue) and practicalities, associated with providing a maximum of 800 public litter bins throughout the Borough. The assumptions underpinning the report will be that the bins are emptied twice per week, using a team of three men and three waste collection vehicles, to supplement all existing arrangements.

The group was reminded that, to get bids for growth items into the Council's budget, an estimate of the costs (both revenue and capital) is needed for the start of the budget process in October. For this to be achieved, officers will need to bring the estimates back to this group first, for sign off.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

6

NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS

Matt Riding will:

- Discuss with Mair Hill (Head of Legal and Democratic Services) and with Phil Dodd (Health and Safety Advisor) on the legal and health and safety aspects of dog wardens wearing body cameras.
- Examine the working practices of dog wardens wearing body cameras and report back to the working group.

John Heap will:

- Consult with officers and prepare a report that examines the costs (capital and revenue) and practicalities, associated with providing and servicing up to 800 public litter bins throughout the Borough. The assumptions underpinning the report will be that the bins are emptied twice per week using existing resources, supplemented by a team of three men and three waste collection vehicles.
- The report will be submitted to this working group in the first instance, prior to it being submitted to the Health and Housing Committee the Community Committee and finally to the Policy and Finance Committee.

7

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be arranged once the report by the Director of Community Services has been prepared.

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Mike Hill, mike.hill@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Dog Fouling Working Group Revised Draft Terms of Reference

1. The Working Group has been constituted by the Health and Housing Committee at its' meeting held on the 18 March 2021 (Draft Minute 1064 refers).
2. The purpose of the group is to review the Council's current arrangements, specifically as they relate to the provision of dog bins and the frequency they are emptied.
3. Nominated Members of the group:
Councillors Alcock (chair), R Newmark and M Robinson.
4. The group will meet as necessary.
5. Two nominated Councillors of the working group need to be present to be quorate.
6. The working group does not have any delegated decision-making powers.
7. The working group will consult with the relevant Chairs of other service committees as appropriate.
8. The group will identify issues and explore realistic options regarding the Council's current arrangements, taking account the principles of best value for the Council, the needs of the local community, local residents and Council staff.
9. The working group will take the form of a Task and Finish group with the aim of completing its considerations by **dd month year** to enable reporting to the **month** Health and Housing Committee.

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