

Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee – 1 June 2004

Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the **Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee** held on **1 June 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs M J Webster (Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr Mrs T J Capon

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr J M Pullen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs S A Harper

OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
H Meggison - Environmental Health Assistant
M Martin - Committee Administrator

27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the adjourned meeting held on 25 May 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 DRAFT ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

Members were supplied with a copy of the letter that had been sent, as requested, to the Consumer Affairs Minister asking that the noise level for fireworks available for private use by the public be reduced to 95dB. A note advising all Members of this would be placed in the Members' Bulletin.

The conditions laid down by the Council relating to Pony Rides were tabled for Members' information, and have been attached as an appendix to these Minutes. The Sub-Committee noted that these had been commended in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Manual as an example of good practice.

Members agreed that once the Charter had been agreed by Council, information such as this should be posted to the Council's web site via links from the Charter, together with links to other reference material and appropriate web sites.

Support should also be actively sought from the County Council, other local authorities and Members of Parliament.

The second draft of the Animal Welfare Charter had been tabled for Members' consideration and incorporated those amendments agreed prior to the adjournment of the meeting held on 25 May 2004.

Further amendments were agreed which would be incorporated into a final draft for Members' consideration. This would include reference to and advice relating to bats, pigeons, domestic animals and exotic animals. Members noted that officers were investigating the viability of including appropriate animal-friendly wording in Council purchasing policies.

30 OTHER ACTIONS

Members considered other actions that could be taken to complement the implementation of an Animal Welfare Charter and it was **recommended** that:-

- (1) A letter be sent to the County Council requesting that emergency planning arrangements should include farm livestock at risk from flooding and that contingency arrangements in rest centre planning should take account of domestic pets.
- (2) A letter be sent to the local branch of the National Farmers' Union urging them to identify measures that could be taken to avoid animals drowning in the event of flooding, so as to avoid health risks from carcasses.
- (3) A leaflet be produced and made available on the safety of animals in emergency situations.
- (4) Members of Parliament be lobbied on the following:-
 - The range of animals listed on the schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 should not be reduced.
 - Large snakes over eight feet long should also be licensed.
 - The potential hazards to wildlife from the development of wind farms needs to be properly taken into account in the evaluation of proposals.
 - The development of alternative methods of research not involving animals.
 - That wildlife crime be made recordable for Police forces because of the strong linkages with other crime.
 - That similar controls be introduced on the tethering of horses.
- (5) An article to appear in Rochford District Matters advising residents that:-
 - work is identified within the Local Plan on wildlife and conservation issues together with guidance relating to the sensitive treatment of tree felling associated with planning applications.
 - the felling of trees, hedges and ditch clearance and associated works should be discouraged during bird nesting times.

- (6) Other local authorities be advised of the value of appointing an Ecologist, both in terms of arboricultural as well as planning issues and particularly where the introduction of an Animal Welfare Charter was under consideration.
- (7) The Sub-Committee sees value in an extension to the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and, for example, wildlife walks at Foulness with observation posts in order to encourage greater appreciation of wildlife particularly given the moves to develop Rochford as a centre of leisure and tourism within the Thames Gateway South East.

31 FINAL DRAFT

Members agreed that a final meeting of the Animal Welfare Sub-Committee would be held on 14 July 2004, commencing at 2.30 pm to consider the final draft of the Animal Welfare Charter, prior to referring it to the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting re-convened at 2.30 pm and closed at 4.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

PONY RIDES

I request permission to include Pony rides in the list of attractions for the event.....

..... Which is being held at.....on...../...../.....

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENT

Name:.....Address:.....

.....Tel No.:

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PONIES

Name:Address:

.....Tel. No.:

PONIES TO BE WORKED AT EVENT

NAME	COLOUR	SEX	AGE	HEIGHT
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.....
.....
.....
.....

I enclose vet certificate number.....to cover (Quantity).....ponies

CONDITIONS

For the purposes of these conditions the term ‘pony’ shall also include Horse, Donkey, Mule and Ass.

Ponies must be under the constant supervision of the responsible person named above. That person must be over the age of 16 years

Ponies must be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink, must be adequately groomed and rested and be provided sufficient shelter and shade.

Ponies to be used for such rides must be maintained in good health and in all respects physically fit and suitable for that purpose.

No Pony aged under 4 years nor any mare in foal nor any mare within three months after foaling may be used for rides.

All riding equipment supplied for a Pony ride must be maintained in good condition and free from defect which is likely to cause suffering to the Pony or accident to the rider.

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The feet of all Ponies must be properly trimmed and, if shod, their shoes must be properly fitted and in good condition.

There must be provision for removal and disposal of manure and spoiled straw off the site at the end of each day of the event.

The operator of such rides shall inspect the area before use and satisfy themselves that it is free from dangerous litter and poisonous plants or shrubs, (plants or shrubs may not be removed from the Public Open Space).

The operator of such rides must permit an inspection of the Pony/ies by an authorised officer of the Council, the Council's Veterinarian or the RSPCA at any time while the animal is on Council owned land

A Pony found in need of veterinary attention shall not be used for rides until the operator has obtained at his own expense and has lodged with RDC a veterinary certificate that the Pony is fit for rides.

The operator of such rides shall also comply with all relevant sections of the following regulations

The Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970

The Protection of Animals Act 1911

The operator of such rides will at all times fully indemnify the Council against all actions, proceedings, losses, demands, damages, costs, expenses or claims whatsoever which may be made against the Council as a result of negligence or breach of any part of this agreement.

A copy of the operators Public Liability insurance must be lodged with the Council before the event takes place. The minimum cover required for this activity is £5 million.

I.....,owner of Ponies covered by

Certificate number..... issued on.....

by.....Veterinary Surgeons,

confirm the certificated Ponies, listed over will be under my constant care on the

above date. I have read and understood the conditions and will comply with them

Signed:..... Dated:.....

