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|  | **Animal Welfare Oversight Committee**  **Minutes of Meeting held on 19th June 2023** |

Conference Room 233 Block 2 Floor 3, Civic Offices and via Teleconferencing (Zoom)

9.00 am – 9.45am

**Members In Attendance:**

Cllr. Deirdre Heney, Chair (DH)

Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy (CC)

Cllr. Cieran Perry (CP)

Catherine Lawler (CL) (Department of Agriculture)

Inspector Peter Woods, An Garda Síochána

**Dublin City Council Representatives**

Ursula Donnellan, Senior Executive Officer (UD)

Richie Herlihy, Administrative Officer (RH)

Maeve Furlong, Animal Welfare Inspector (MF)

**Minute Taker**: Gareth Matthews, Staff Officer (GM)

**Apologies:**

Martina Kenny (MK) (My Lovely Horse Rescue)

Cllr. Donna Cooney (DC)

Chief Superintendent John Gordon, An Garda Síochána (CS,JG)

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|  |  | **Discussion** | **Matters Arising / Actions** |
| 1 | **Minutes of last meeting (27/03/22)** |  | Minutes agreed. |
| 2. | **Introduction of Animal Welfare Inspector** | Maeve Furlong introduced and welcomed to the Committee and members |  |
| 3. | **Manager’s Report and Updates** |  | |
|  | Dog Control Statistics | YTD statistics presented and noted.  Report on average time spent by breed of dog in shelter discussed and to be included in Committee reports going forward. | (MF) in contact with all dog charities nationally to improve current number of dogs transferred from charities. |
|  | Dog Shelter Facility | Engagement with Dublin Dog Hub taken place and update noted. | R.H to engage with Dublin Dog Hub to progress potential agreement for use of 2nd shelter |
|  | Control of Horse Statistics | YTD statistics presented and noted.  Current Animal Welfare contribution annual budget spend discussed.  (U.D)Provision of funds must first be approved within annual budget in order to be in a position to contribute. | Grant application process to be formulated for charitable organisation applications and contributions. |
|  | HMS Issues | HMS notification to cease operation notice received.  Decrease in horse seizures combined with safety risks associated with the service has resulted in economical decision to withdraw from services provided. | Discussions on going on a resolution to current situation |
|  | Procurement Process for New Control of Horses Contract | Advertisement for competition for contract has been dispersed into allotting system to attract increased entries for competition. | Meeting to take place next week. |
|  | Ballyfermot Horse Report | Five locations identified for location of multiple horses (10).  Use of drone footage to be trialled in a new technique for identifying stray horses.  An unmanned light aircraft operation to confirm location of horses.  (C.L) (D.o.A) to discuss operations with (UD & RH) to offer assistance similar to those carried out successfully in Fingal Co Co. | Update to be given after operation has taken place. |
|  | Horse Drawn Carriage Bill | Animal Welfare are in discussion with our Roads & Transport Unit in relation to the long term resolution of the Horse Drawn Carriages at the Guinness Store House. | Animal Welfare propose to inspect the site for breaches of Welfare and Horse Ownership |
|  | Multi Agency checkpoints | (Inspector P.W) gave update on planned operations in the coming weeks.  Dual purpose operation proved successful in last operation carried out.  Resources are an issue in performing another planned inspection since February. | Further checkpoints to be arranged in the coming months, the time of these operation discussed and Dept of Agriculture to attend. |
|  | DCC Animal Welfare Unit Staffing | (D.H) queried if a combined internal & external competition could be advertised and ran simultaneously for the upcoming Animal Welfare Officer position. | (U.D) to query this option with DCC HR department.  Response to be addressed in next meeting |
|  | Joint Training Programme | RH gave update on a two pronged approach to the training programme.   1. Engage with John Maloney Dept of Agriculture to build a modular approach alongside Garda McQuillan for scenario based cases. 2. MF to lead practical dog handling programme. Engagement with An Garda Síochána dog handling unit to assist in practical training required. | On ground experience needed.  (D.H) suggested Louis Riordan involvement in the training programme.  Aim of this programme is to aid all authorised officers and partners of the AWU members in their Animal Welfare knowledge when on duty. |
|  | Hours of Service and contact information | Current hours of service and out of hours contact details noted.  Hours to increase once staffing levels improve | To be reviewed when additional staff resources are in place. |
|  | Motion regarding the use of animal in events | (D.H) received complaints in relation to live animals at DCC organised events.  (U.D) referred to the draft action policy document for The Animal Welfare Unit Charter to be created which includes prevention of live animals at DCC events. | Samples of similar documentation to be circulated to Committee members for their input and suggested approach for charter.  This charter will document the prevention of use of animals at DCC public events. |
|  | Members update | No additional discussions |  |
|  | Animal Welfare Charter | Discussed at earlier stage of meeting | See above |
| 4 | A.O.B | No business. |  |
|  | **Next meeting is scheduled for the 4th of September at 09.00am** | | |