

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
held on 13 April 2021 at 5.30 pm

Present

Councillors B G J Warren (Chairman)
W Burke, D R Coren, Miss J Norton,
R F Radford, R L Stanley, L D Taylor and
J Wright

Apologies

Councillor(s) E J Berry

Also Present

Councillor(s) Mrs C P Daw and R M Deed

Also Present

Officer(s): Jill May (Director of Business Improvement and Operations), Matthew Page (Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste), Darren Beer (Operations Manager for Street Scene), Philip Langdon (Solicitor), Deborah Sharpley (Solicitor), Vicky Lowman (Environment and Enforcement Manager), Clare Robathan (Scrutiny Officer) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

76 **COUNCILLOR GLANMOR HUGHES**

Prior to the meeting a minute silence was held in memory of Cllr Glanmor Hughes.

77 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (0.03.19)**

Apologies were received from Cllr E J Berry.

78 **REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL (0.03.31)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, the *Remote Meetings Protocol.

Note: *Protocol previously circulated and attached to the minutes

79 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0.03.48)**

Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests when appropriate.

80 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0.04.03)**

There were no members of the public present.

81 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (0.04.08)**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th March 2021 were agreed as a true record.

82 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (0.04.38)**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

83 **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (0.05.18)**

The Group had before it a *report of the Environment and Enforcement Manager presenting the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The officer outlined the contents of the report and explained that officers had completed a further review of the PSPO and had contacted the parishes to clarify the maps and the areas to be included. Officers felt that this was a worthwhile exercise and thanked the parishes for their assistance. As part of this exercise additional areas of land had been identified and some changes had been made to the order which included:

- A reduction in the number of spaces where dogs were required to be on leads
- An increase in the number of dogs allowed to be walked by a single individual from 4 to 6
- An increase in the number of enclosed play areas included within the order

These changes reflected the feedback from the Group and Cabinet in previous meetings and also the first public consultation.

If the PSPO Order was made uniform signage would be erected in all the relevant places. Quotes were being obtained in relation to this.

The Environment and Enforcement Manager explained that the PSPO would now be subject to a 4 week consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders which would include press coverage, a link to the consultation on the Council website and signs being placed in the included areas. Paper copies of the consultation would also be provided to the public who requested it.

Consideration was given to:

- The number of dogs that professional dog walkers could walk being a maximum of 6 or up to the maximum on their insurance
- The allocation of district officer discretionary hours to dog fouling
- Parishes views that too little time was allocated to enforcement of dog fouling

The Group therefore **RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that:

- 1) Authority be given to consult with members of the public and other relevant stakeholders to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

- 2) The fixed penalty for breach of the PSPO be set at the maximum permitted of £100

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Reason for the Decision: To widen enforcement powers in order to deliver a cleaner and more sustainable environment across the Mid Devon District.

Note: *Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

(The meeting ended at 5.54 pm)

CHAIRMAN