

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on Wednesday 30th January 2008 To Formulate a Community Watch Scheme for Dog Fouling

Present:

Councillor T. Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. E Willis, Linda Burn, Mrs. M. Dowling, Mrs. M Whitehead, T Fiddler and C Robb. Four representatives from the dog owners, representatives from the Cricket and football sections, the Police and the Dog Warden from Fylde Borough Council

Apologies: Councillors St J Greenhough and P Quinn.

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to formulate a scheme so that the public could report incidents of dog fouling, where the owners were not picking up. He emphasised that the offenders should not be approached by the public, to avoid a confrontational situation.

The following suggestions were then discussed:-

1. **Put-up Notices informing people of the action being taken**

It was agreed that the notice designed by James Amor should be used and should include the dog wardens direct line and address as the contact point. In addition, the new web-site www.freckleton-dog-watch.org should be used to email the dog warden. The notice should be displayed in as many places as possible around the Bush lane playing fields. Additional copies should be displayed in shops, the library and pubs. In addition, it was suggested that there should be a mail shot to every house in Bush lane and Ribble Ave. The dog representatives agreed to progress this.

2. **Additional publication**

The Clerk agreed to put a notice on the Parish Council's web-site; in the next Newsletter and the Community Notice board.

3. **Information required when a dog is seen fouling and the owner does not pick-up.**

It was agreed that there should be a zero tolerance approach towards dog fouling offenders. The dog warden stated that she would require the name & address of owner, type of dog, location where incident occurred, date and time of incident. This information should be notified by telephone (24 hour answer machine), letter or email, via the new web-site. In addition, she indicated that she could act on a car number if that was the only information available on the offender.

4. **Action to be taken with the information.**

The dog warden indicated that she would contact the informant to obtain a statement and then visit the offender to issue a fixed penalty notice of £50. If the fine was not paid then legal action would be taken, if the informant was prepared to go to court and a fine of up to £1,000 could be issued.

In addition, she indicated that she would issue a warning notice if she received a complaint where someone was positive that an offence was being committed, but there was no evidence.

5. **Monitor the Scheme.**

The dog warden agreed to notify the Clerk of the number of incidents received and the action taken. It was agreed that this would be notified on a monthly basis, around the 25th of each month.

Councillor Willis agreed to report the number of incidents where dog fouling had to be picked up. Again, this would be on a monthly basis.

6. Monitor for Improvements.

The representatives from the Football & Cricket sections agreed to report back on whether there had been any improvements.

7. Review of procedures.

It was agreed that the scheme should be monitored on a monthly basis, via the Open Spaces committee, to monitor the progress and to agree any changes that may be required.

8. Other Points.

- a) The dog warden indicated that she could train any person who the Parish Council thought would be suitable to act as an Enforcement officer.
- b) It was agreed that bag dispensers should not be provided, as they would attract vandalism and this would result in more litter on the playing fields.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed..... Mrs. M Dowling, Chairman.....

Date.....04/02/08.....