

CABINET

6 MARCH 2023

Present: Councillors Barnett (Chair), Batsford, Cannon, Evans, Roark, Rogers and Willis

In attendance: Jane Hartnell Managing Director, Mary Kilner Chief Legal Officer, Paul Cosson Enforcement Manager

518. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

519. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Item	Interest
Cllr Rogers	5	Personal – Member of Charity Committee

520. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 30/01/23 & 06/02/23

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2023 and 6th February be approved as a true record.

521. NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

Item 6 - To appoint a Vice-Chair of the Hastings Country Park Management Forum

522. REVIEWING THE NEED FOR A DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (DC PSPO)

The Enforcement Manager explained there are currently no dog PSPO's as they lapsed in June 2020 during Covid. The new proposed dog control PSPO's have been out to consultation. There were 835 responses to the consultation with 601 specifically opposing the new restrictions on the beach, 114 advised they felt the old restrictions seemed fair and 74 agreed with the new proposal. The new PSPO's are based on the previous PSPO's with some amendments to the beaches and the parks and gardens. Dog exclusion orders will cover fixed equipment playgrounds, and parks with no playgrounds will require dogs to be on leads between 9:00am and 5:00pm in the summer and 10:00am and 16:00pm in the winter. There was a consultation response from the Charity committee asking for restrictions to be in line with the previous PSPO's with two amendments. These were for the beach at Rock A Nore to be included in the restrictions and for the restrictions to start in April instead of the previous start time of May.

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Councillors asked a question regarding the number of responses to the consultation. The Enforcement Manager answered that the consultation had one of the highest responses to any consultation recently.

Councillors asked regarding responses from statutory partners. The Enforcement Manager explained that East Sussex County Council had not responded. Sussex Police did respond and support the proposed dog control measures.

The Councillors debated and discussed the need for dog control measures. It was discussed how renewing the Dog control PSPO gave an opportunity to make the PSPO's clearer and easier to understand. The Councillors discussed that there will be now dog exclusion areas in play parks. The Rock A Nore beach has now been included in the beach exclusion area, but it was noted that the Fisher's working dogs are allowed. The beach exclusion will now start in April as this is now the start of the summer season.

Councillor Rogers explained that the Dog control PSPO will be reviewed after 12 months and asked for the public to comment on any changes they feel are needed especially regarding the number of dogs one person can walk at once.

Councillor Barnett explained that the orders will need to be created and will hopefully come into place by the summer.

Proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Willis

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1) Agree the proposed and recommended restrictions for a new Dog Control Public Space Protection Order and authorise the Chief Legal Officer to create this Order to last 3 years, in accordance with regulations published by the Secretary of State.

2) Authorise the Chief Legal Officer to correct any minor drafting errors that may be identified and make minor amendments including deletions and insertions that may be necessary to ensure the ASB PSPO is accurate.

Reasons:

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1. The Hastings Dog Control PSPO lapsed in June 2020, and a new PSPO is required to enable enforcement to be carried out where needed to address problems like fouling and dogs not being under control.

2. Before making these recommendations, the council gathered views from local people and affected organisations and parties during the public consultation.

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523. URGENT ITEM: TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT FORUM

The Chief Legal Officer explained a vice chair needs to be appointed for the Hastings Country Park Management Forum. Councillor Willis will be the vice chair of the Hastings Country Park Management Forum.

Proposed by Councillor Barnett and seconded by Councillor Roark

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1) Cabinet appoint Councillor Willis as Vice-Chair of the Hastings Country Park Management Forum.

Reasons

The Forum requires a Vice-Chair to be appointed to act in the absence of the Chair

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.45 pm)