

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE

held in the Conference Room,
Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

11th December 2012

commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:
Councillor Beaty (Chairman)

Councillors: Bannister, Mrs. Burrell, Callis, Dann, Dunton,
Hallam, Mrs. Page, Smith and Tomlin.

Officers: N. Proudfoot, S. Greenway, B. Murgatroyd and G. Keeping

370 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Liquorish and Mrs. Robinson.

371 MINUTES

RESOLVED that:

the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on 26th June 2012 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

372 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None received.

373 TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered a report regarding the draft taxi policy, which had resulted from a comprehensive review of the original 1998 policy. The Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 26th June 2012 had considered an earlier draft of the revised policy and had resolved that:

- “(i) public consultation of the new Taxi Licensing Policy be undertaken.
- (ii) following the consultation process a further report be brought to this Committee to approve the final version of the Taxi Licensing Policy. The report should include the results of the consultation process.”

The revised draft, attached as appendix A to the report, had been subject to public consultation with seven of the largest taxi companies within the District, together with the National Private Hire Association. The policy had been placed on the Council's web-page to engage with stakeholders.

After discussion, the Committee approved minor textual corrections to the draft policy and

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the final version of the taxi policy be approved by Council and,**
- (ii) If the recommendation is implemented by Council, that a copy of the policy be supplied to all new applicants for taxi licences.**

374 DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 6th December 2011 recommended that:

“The Council adopts the necessary powers under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 and the implementation of Dog Control Order for the following:

- Fouling of land by dogs and the removal of dog faeces;
- The keeping of dogs on leads;
- Not putting and keeping a dog on lead when directed to do so by an Authorised Officer
- The exclusion of dogs from designated areas of land.”

The Council at its Meeting on 16th January 2012 approved the above resolution.

Following a public consultation process, there was clear evidence to show that the requirement to keep dogs on leads at all times in certain areas was not supported by the public. The Regulatory Committee, at its meeting on 26th June 2012 recommended that:

“(i) Dogs be controlled with leads in the following areas of the District

- sports pitches,
- children’s play areas
- sport areas
- sports areas maintained at public expense.
- footpaths adjacent a 40mph or less speed limit.
- cemeteries and church yards

(i) if the recommendation is implemented by Council the subject should be reviewed in twelve months.”

The Committee considered a report that indicated there is no clear definition as to what constitutes a sports area/pitch, therefore to prevent confusion and to ensure clarity as to what pieces of land will be covered by the order it will be necessary to specify the land in question as part of the process land. Consequently it has been suggested that the Council re-consult with the Parish Council’s and the relevant authorities to seek their opinion as to what specific pieces of land they would want covered for sports areas/pitches. In addition the Council will also have to decide what sports pitches they own and maintain should be covered under this dog control order.

The Committee identified that it should be made clear to consultees that the Council was asking for specific areas to be identified as sports areas / pitches that should be subject to orders requiring dogs to be kept on leads. If consultees did not respond, then no areas would be included. The list of consultees should include ‘relevant authorities’, which would involve landowners, and in the absence of a parish council, parish meetings.

The Committee therefore

RESOLVED:

That a re-consultation should take place with the Parish Councils and relevant authorities to seek their opinions as to what specific pieces of land should be covered in respect of sports pitches/areas for dogs being kept on their leads.

The Meeting ended at 7.14 p.m.