

Minutes of a meeting of the
Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Worthing)
11 October 2022
at 7.30 pm

Councillor Dr Beccy Cooper (Chair)
Councillor Carl Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Rita Garner
Councillor Martin McCabe
Councillor Helen Silman

Councillor Emma Taylor
Councillor John Turley
Councillor Vicki Wells
*Councillor Rosey Whorlow

**Absent*

JSS-C(W)/18/22-23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

JSS-C(W)/19/22-23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes from the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee meeting held on 6th September 2022, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

JSS-C(W)/20/22-23 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

JSS-C(W)/21/22-23 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items for consideration.

JSS-C(W)/22/22-23 Public Space Protection Orders - Dog Control

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, presented by the Cabinet Member for the Environment, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 5.

The report outlined the findings of a public consultation to renew the current Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) including some variations.

Members were asked to approve the amendments to the PSPO and renew for a further 3 years.

A Councillor sought clarification regarding the consultation. In particular, a change midway through the consultation regarding dogs being kept on leads at Beach House Park, which was changed to Beach House Park being made an off-lead space. Was the Sub-Committee satisfied that the legal process had been followed for this consultation?

** The meeting was adjourned at 7.42pm and reconvened at 7.45pm.*

In addition, it was highlighted that this was a joint Adur and Worthing consultation and therefore residents in Adur had commented on Worthing PSPOs. The Councillor asked whether this should have been a Worthing only consultation. If it was, could the validity of a joint consultation be challenged?

** The meeting was adjourned at 7.48pm and reconvened at 7.50pm.*

Officers agreed to provide a written response to the questions asked by the Councillor. However, in order to progress this matter to Full Council, the Sub-Committee was advised to debate the issue, before making recommendations subject to the satisfactory answering by the Monitoring Officer of the Councillor's questions.

The Councillor asked a further question regarding the framing of the questions in the consultation. In the absence of correspondence from the public, what was the wording of the questions based upon and was the Sub-Committee satisfied that the questions were open? It was noted that the framing of questions was derived from feedback received via the Parks Service, including feedback from Park Rangers regarding day to day use and comments received from customers.

The Committee was advised that recommendation 2.2 be amended to say:-

'subject to the Monitoring Officer responding to the questions raised during consideration of the item and to the Monitoring Officer being satisfied that the PSPO may lawfully be made, refer the recommendations to Full Council for approval.

The recommendations, as amended, were proposed by Councillor Helen Silman, seconded by Councillor Vicki Wells and unanimously supported.

Decision

That the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee

1. considered the findings of the Public Consultation and approved the proposed amendments to the PSPO as detailed in section 6.1 through to 6.6; and
2. subject to the Monitoring Officer responding to the questions raised during consideration of the item and to the Monitoring Officer being satisfied that the PSPO may lawfully be made, refer the recommendations to Full Council for approval'.

Call-in

There is no call-in for recommendations to Worthing Borough Council.