

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL



Control of Dogs Bylaw and Control of Dogs Policy Exercise Areas

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting held in the District Council chambers, Kitchener Street, Martinborough on Wednesday 11 July 2007 commencing at 9.00am.

Present: Mayor A L Staples, and Councillors B J Clark, S H Davis, K J Lyford, P R March, K R Sexton and J D Tenquist.

Officers Present: Messrs G B Page (Chief Executive) and J Adams (Rates and Accounts Collection Clerk)

Mayor Staples in the Chair

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

(Tenquist/Clark)

DC2007/100THAT apologies received from Crs M W Beckett, V L Napier and D R Phelps be accepted.

2. VERBAL SUBMISSIONS TO CONTROL OF DOG BYLAW AND POLICY 2005 AND EXERCISE AREAS

1. 9.00am **Matt Adams**
Lives in a rural property on the outskirts of Greytown, has a dog and has young children. Sports grounds should be areas where dogs can be exercised except when games are played.
Dogs should not be allowed to roam near farms.
Suggested various changes as contained in his submission.
Target those that do not comply rather than total ban.
Matt was complimented on his positive submission.

2. 9.13am **Sam Butters**
Land owner and resident in Featherston and involved professionally with animal control on a NZ wide basis.
Spoke to aspects of her submission. There have been stock attacks off Bucks Road. Urban dogs need urban areas for dogs to exercise. People are using Underhill Road but they know the risk, giving them permission will be taken as a right. Recreation reserve is a Council owned paddock leased out for grazing off Johnston Street. Ground used for soccer could be an exercise area.

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3. 9.26am **Mary Phillips on behalf of Jan Chaplin**
 Would prefer exercise areas to be fenced off and provided with suitable facilities e.g. bins, plastic bags etc. These areas do not need to be big; they need to accommodate children as dog exercise can be a family event. Running dogs in rural areas could spread disease. Gave an example of Franklin's Annual Report on Dog Control Issues, noted that Council gets a report as well. Bins and plastic bags should be supplied.
 Question asked about how big an area provided. Oblong rather than square, say 2 acres. Suggested Old Stella Bull Park, Soldiers Memorial Park. Rules are required for the 5% minority who don't control their dogs.
6. 9.47am **Bruce Eglinton**
 Strongly opposes North Street as an exercise areas, might have to consider fencing his property if this happens. Most dog owners are alright but to give outright rights will change the situation.
- 9.53am *[Broke for morning tea, resumed at 10.10am.*
7. 10.10am **Maria Fairburn and Robyn Perry**
 Seeking to clarify exactly which areas are proposed. Unrestrained dogs are a threat to many people, would also act against the promotion of the tracks for all ages for walking purposes. Consistency required for the reserves e.g. there is a ban on dogs in Dorset Reserve. Dogs on leads are generally OK on roads or in reserve areas.
8. 10.18am **Gwenda Farrell**
 Delighted that Council is trying to make areas available for exercising dogs off leash. Shared her New Plymouth experience where there are a variety of dog exercise areas. Wants Council to promote education on dog ownership, by sending out a pack of education material to dog owners. Wording changes suggested. Talked about Taranaki District Council "preferred dog" status (article in Wairarapa Times Age). Asked if Council would consider something similar. Regarding small children, fencing should constrain them. Restricted hours suggestion supported. Lots of dog owners not particularly mobile.
9. 10.31am **Greg Crowe and Neil Montgomerie**
 Have a 40 area block with various livestock. Loss of livestock off Wood Street last year. Has no problem with dogs on a leash. They are dog owners, the dogs are fenced off.
- 10.35am *[Sonny Te Maari Joined the meeting]*
 Gave an example of a person walking down the road unaware that their dog was running on their property. The road is also a stock route. Bins would be good, plastic bags not required to be supplied. People park in front of farm access gates and are oblivious to it. Suggested area by river off Kuratawhiti Street. Most owners walk their dogs on lead. Time in year constraints are not applicable for their property.
10. 10.45am **Mary Phillips**
 Suggested the terminology of working dogs is not complete from the Act. Exercise areas should be fenced.
 Suggested a programme of dog obedience run in Carterton called Canine Good Citizen. You can be a good dog owner but have a dog which is not.
 Suggested the terminology of what constitutes stock in the Act should be included. Permit required for more than 2 dogs is not viable for farmers. Dangerous dogs need to be dealt with. More education for dog owners required by Council. Marking of pavements suggested, Napier and Masterton given as examples. School education referred to. Infringement fee levels questioned, they are set by statute. Other documents (e.g. reserve management plans) should be referred to. Should coastal area restrictions be included?
13. 11.03am **Greg Robins**
 Reference made to email forwarded to CEO and not responded to. "Canine Friends" referred to, where they visit rest homes. Noted that rest homes should be removed from restricted areas. Draft quality of document questioned. Levy for dog control also applied to stock control, contained in Council newsletter.
15. 11.14am **Michael Scott**

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Very personal issue, has had to shoot a number of dogs on his property because they have been worrying stock. Previously lived in a rural area in Wellington where he also had to shoot dogs.

In Underhill Road mostly have to walk dogs on the carriageway which is dangerous. Works for Wellington City Council. Enforcement is a real issue in South Wairarapa, a lot of dogs loose in Featherston. Beneficial to have area within walking distance. Sports grounds could be used in no game time. Bins required and increased signage. He keeps his berm mowed but this then attracts doggy do. Vision problem in Underhill Road. Not practical to get people to go to obedience classes. Positive submission.

17. 11.32am **Joan Smith**
Walks her dog along Underhill Road and its hell as said earlier. High traffic count which is against the policy. Notices up about the 1080 drop, has this been taken into account. Barr Brown area used by one former resident and the dogs scarred people. Agrees with suggestions of fenced paddock areas.
16. 11.39am **James and Jane Smallwood**
Jane emphasised the main points of their submission, such events as contained in the submission already was happening. Last year a cow had died as a result of a dog incident. Urban dog owners have no idea of the problems of loose dogs on farms. Also dogs are a problem for young children. If Kuratawhiti Street used it should be from where the gravel starts. Suggested if road used then a 10 week (July to September) window be allowed for during calving season as a compromise. Not many people walk dogs on a lead.

Submissions concluded at 11.49am. Mayor Staples thanked the submitters for their valuable input and more work was required by the Officers before decisions could be made.

RESOLVED

(Tenquist/Davies)

DC2007/101 THAT the meeting be adjourned.

[The meeting broke for lunch at 12.02pm and resumed at 12.31pm].

3. COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

The Council went through revised copies of the Dog Control Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Policy, these copies had incorporated many of the suggestions made during the submissions heard earlier in the day. There were a number of relatively minor changes and it was decided that the documents would be revised and brought back to Council for adoption at the Council meeting on 25 July 2007. It was also decided that the Infected Dogs clause which had been in the original Bylaw should be in the revised Bylaw and that the clause on conviction should be in both revised documents.

[Cr D R Sexton left the meeting at 2.00pm].

Council agreed with the suggestion from one submitter that the definition of stock be included in the Bylaw. It was agreed by Council, that in line with the majority of submitters, that off leash exercise areas for dogs should not be alongside roads but ideally be flat, fenced areas, easily accessible for urban people, visible to the public with bins for doggy do, but not with plastic bags supplied. Officers were asked to look at the options available to meet these criteria in each of the three towns. In effect the changes would mean that all urban areas were dog leash areas, except for the defined exercise areas. Officers were asked that as part of the investigation the cost of having Transfield mow the areas involved, supply and emptying of bins, fencing and signage be considered, and that such costs be part of the dog control expenses so that they be incorporated into the dog control fees.

Council suggested some areas or consideration for exercise areas, these included;-

- Paper road area near Weld Street/Ferry Road in Martinborough
- Paddock near railway station in Featherston.
- Fenced off area at the back of Collier Reserve in Greytown
- Part of the old Stella Bull Park area in Greytown.

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Council then considered the specific submission regarding dogs at the camping ground near Te Awaiti and the submissions made at the Annual Plan submission hearings. It was recognised that there had been a number of complaints regarding the dogs of campers, and indeed in the general behaviour of the campers who were generally seen as the problem. Officers were asked to investigate the possibility of appointing a local person as a dog ranger, as it was difficult for the current dog rangers to be effective within the time frames of travel etc.

Following consideration of all matters pertaining to the camp grounds near Te Awaiti it was;-

RESOLVED **(Davis/Lyford)**
DC2007/102 THAT *a trial be undertaken with dogs banned at the campground during the time of daylight saving and that appropriate signage and advertising be undertaken.*

It was agreed that this matter be kept under review.

Council then discussed the opportunity of adding wording to the registration invoice for dogs which could cover matters such as education (including where copies of the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw can be found), dog control matters under reserve management plans and the need for dog owners to learn to pick up dog excrement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.53pm.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

.....**(Mayor)**

.....**Date**

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