

Holbeton Parish Council

It has been quite a while since the Parish Council has needed to post regarding dogs or more specifically a minority of owners.

Just some reminders. The Playpark, Community Orchard, and the sports fields in the village and at Battisborough Cross are all dog free areas.

This is because these are areas where children play and dog faeces presents a health risk.

It is also unpleasant, to say the least, for those who cut the grass whether volunteers or contractors to trim and mow dog faeces.

The bin in the village sports field is not for dog bags, it is emptied by a volunteer.

Please don't let your dog's defaecate or urinate on other people's property, not surprisingly people get upset by this.

It is an offence if you do not keep your dog on a short lead in designated areas.

This applies to all areas covered by Rule 56 of the Highway Code i.e. on the road, or on the pavement, or on a path shared with cyclists or horse riders within 30 mph speed zones.

Dogs should also be on a lead in car parks and cemeteries and churchyards.

If children are walking a dog liability remains with the adult owner.

The Blue Cross recommends that dog owners have public liability insurance in case their dog causes an accident.

If your dog fouls in a public area it is your responsibility to ensure the mess is picked up and properly disposed of.

It is an offence to fail to remove the faeces and to correctly dispose of it (bag it and dispose of in a waste or dedicated dog poo bin; or double bag it and take it home for disposal in your household waste).

Residents can report non-compliance to South Hams District Council https://swd-host01.swdevon.gov.uk/w/webpage/reportit?context_record_id=16364947&webpage_token=672980bd64049d8e741c1cca85163afe443754f61002090ea195d61a496f5a61

The Countryside code states that "On Open Access land and at the coast, you must put your dog on a lead around livestock.

Between 1 March and 31 July, you must have your dog on a lead on Open Access land, even if there is no livestock on the land.

These are legal requirements." Please also pick up dog faeces on farm land.

It might seem like not much harm has been done, but canine faeces can contain parasites that, if not cleaned up, can spread to grass.

If this grass is eaten it can cause pregnant cattle to lose their young, as well as blindness in humans. Disease can also be passed onto wildlife.

Your lovely friendly family pet is still capable of worrying livestock causing miscarriage, injury and death.

There is much more information on the following sites.

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/wellbeing-and-care/dog-lawsuk>

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/environment-and-nuisance/dogs>