Dog Walking in Jubliee Field.

Conversation with Somerset Environmental Health Matt Cloke.

All public spaces are covered by Public Spaces Protection Order in respect to dog fouling and dogs on lead. Whereas if a Somerset Council officer witnesses a dog off a lead causing a disturbance i.e. be acting in a manner that causes alarm or distress to other users of public open spaces or livestock, that dog owner can be forced to keep that particular dog on a lead and then fined if not. As Parish council staff and Councillors we can report but no more. In reality with 6 staff covering the whole of Somerset they can not stake out the field waiting for a particular dog to appear.

There is not an order that can force all dogs to be on the lead, the general rule is that in most public spaces dogs off the lead are allowed.

The only option is to apply to for a bylaw from The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) who have responsibility for byelaws covering pleasure grounds and open spaces and good rule and government. These relate in the main to the peaceful enjoyment of parks and open spaces and the suppression of nuisances.

It would be at the Parish Councils cost to monitor and enforce this.

This is regarded as a final option when all other avenue’s fail to work.

It's a legal requirement that dogs are under control whilst in public, and this usually means walking on a lead but we can not enforce this just ask for the public’s co operation and explain the consequences if not.

Nigel Tinley

Clerk

25th March 2025