

# Undy Memorial Hall Dog Policy

## Background (Courtesy of the Dogs Trust)

Many local authorities are introducing blanket orders which are restricting dogs from enjoying public spaces or requiring them to be kept on a lead. Such bans are ineffective and are often ignored by those causing the problem. It is then responsible owners and the wider community left with the burden that the restrictions bring.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Possible health and welfare implications for dogs not getting enough off-lead exercise
- Dogs lacking social interactions with other dogs, leading to possible behavioural problems
- People lacking social interactions with other people, possibly affecting social well-being
- Responsible dog owners being given a bad name
- Impact to local dog friendly businesses – dog walkers are one of the most common users of open spaces

## Hall Trustees

In recognition of the above, particularly 'people social interaction', the trustees do not wish to over-restrict dogs to the hall and grounds and have developed this policy which hopefully finds a balance between the freedom to bring dogs to the Memorial Hall and the protection and welfare of individuals using the hall.

## The Policy

### The Hall

- Before bringing a dog to the hall or the grounds, owners should ensure that permission is in place and that any restrictions are understood
- When the hall is hired by an individual to run a class or event, participants are not permitted to bring dogs into the hall (unless the dog is designated as an 'assistance dog'). This is the default position. However -
- When there are social events, organised by the Memorial Hall management committee, e.g., a coffee morning or an 'afternoon tea', well-behaved dogs can be admitted with their owners at the discretion of the management member or their representative. • Within the hall, permitted dogs must be kept on its lead
- If a dog is believed to be causing nuisance to other users, the owner may be asked to remove the dog from the premises
- It is possible that an event may be exempt from the 'no dogs' rule (e.g., an organised dog show or dog training course) but specific permission must be sought by the organiser in advance and, terms and conditions agreed to.

### The Grounds

- Whilst not encouraged, owners exercising their dogs in the grounds of the hall, are reminded that the hall is covered by local byelaws and that owners must remove any fouling and dispose of it offsite (in specific council-provided bins or by taking home)
- The car park area may be used as a dog training area, as a pre-arranged expert-run event
- Under no circumstances should dogs be left in owners' cars in the hall car park

Approved 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Reaffirmed at 2024 AGM