

BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 8.00pm on Thursday
2nd March 2023

Present

Cllr S Butler (*Chair*), Cllr R Fellowes, Cllr A Ross and Cllr M Bailey
District Cllr D Pratt

In Attendance

Fourteen members of the public
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

Bpc101/22 Apologies

Cllr M Tabberer and Cllr M Anderson

Bp102/22 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

Bpc102/22 Public Forum

Concerns about the ponies raised were:

Welfare – tied up continually, away from each other so no companionship, not near bushes for protection from weather, only bare minimum contact from owners who visit twice a day to feed and water but are only there for 10 minutes and no physical contact with the ponies, the ponies are excited to see the owners but the owners are not interested, bad weather expected next week and also hot weather also a problem with no shade. Water bucket inside a tyre but gets knocked over regularly by the tether rope so people going out and topping up the water, no exercise for the ponies on the tethers

Concerns about the Tye raised were:

Driving vehicles over the Tye is damaging it and is against the Bye Laws and illegal, the horse mess is not being cleared up, they were obstructing the public footpaths on the Tye, possible dangers to people using the Tye as the ponies bite and rear up, they affect how people can use the Tye, they are driving at too high a speed along the track to Bridge Cottages especially at Cameron Croft corner, they slide on the track when stopping as driving too fast, this is damaging the track surface which the immediate houses have to pay to maintain, don't think it's right that they can break the law and appear to get away with it, they have not asked permission to graze there, concerns that more horses might be put there, they could get loose again and cause a traffic accident

Cllr Dan Pratt: Mid Suffolk District Council give their apologies for not attending the meeting.

The family who owns the ponies are tenants of MSDC. The ponies were first seen in Barking just before Christmas with the second pony arriving on Boxing Day. MSDC wrote to the owners asking them to remove them and gave a deadline which has expired. The owners said they are looking for alternative grazing. MSDC have been considering using an Equine Bailiff but it could cost up to £10,000. As they are a traveller family, MSDC have been liaising with other organisations to ensure all points are covered so it is taking longer than expected. The owners do not want to sell the ponies, they are not microchipped. The owners say they have found somewhere to move the ponies to and will do so in two weeks but have not said where. MSDC will give them 4 weeks and then take action. There is a concern that the bailiff is used but the ponies are brought back so need to do the whole thing again. MSDC are hoping that by working with the owners the problem can be fully resolved.

Bpc103/22 Ponies Tethered on The Tye

Having listened to the concerns and Cllr Pratt, the council agreed to write to MSDC to say that the parish council want a specific date for the end of the 4 week period of time and the parish council expect MSDC to take action when that date expires. Due to the potential cost of the equine bailiff, the parish council does not have funds to take this course of action. As it is such a large amount of money, it would have to a decision agreed by everyone in the village as it would result in a much increased precept for the village to cover the costs. MSDC have said publicly that they will cover the costs.

It was agreed that the Clerk put up do not approach the horses signs on the Tye to warn people.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman Date