

MINUTES OF THE SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016, AT 9AM

Present: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman), J Badham.

Independent Members: Mr A Purkiss, and Mr J Lucas.

Also Present: Ms C Corsie (Advisor to the Committee)

1. Apologies

- i. Alisa Swanson (Natural England)

Absent without apology:

- i. Cllr K Brennan
- ii. Cllr P Clatworthy
- iii. Mr T Perry

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Mr A Purkiss – Secretary of Tewkesbury Commoners

3. Dispensations

None

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2016

The minutes of the meeting on 7th July 2016 were agreed as a true record.

5. Elver Pass Installation

The Chairman requested that the Clerk gather information on MEM Fisheries Limited who are in charge of the Elver Pass project. The committee was concerned that this project may impact negatively on the Severn Ham but the Clerk read out an email from Ian McNeil which described the work required and the dates upon which it would be initiated, giving assurances that MEM Fisheries were aware of the environmental importance of the Severn Ham. Mr McNeil has also contacted Alisa Swanson at Natural England to confirm restrictions currently in place on the Ham.

6. Long Term Legacy of Ham

Caroline Corsie reported that she would be meeting with Cathy Beeching of Environment Agency Tewkesbury with reference to a large grant which could be available for the main Severn Weir improvements. These are preliminary discussions and she will report back to Tewkesbury Town Council.

Caroline Corsie will meet with Cross Compliance Solutions to prepare the coming years SMR's and GEAC's.

Severn Trent have not accessed the Ham to address the leaking valve problem. The committee considered that they will probably attempt to tie in with the environment agency work currently ongoing.

A large LIFE/HLF Shad fish project which affects the River Severn at the upper lode weir is in the pipeline. The committee noted the contents of an update from Alisa Swanson of Natural England.

Alan Purkiss raised concerns with the works currently planned for the Mill by the Environment Agency. The stocking of the water between Swilgate and the Mill may have a negative impact on fish and other wildlife. It was noted that there will be a meeting on 8th July 2016 with the Riverside Partnership at which John Monaghan will make a presentation on behalf of the Environment Agency and the Clerk and Alan Purkiss agreed to ask for confirmation from Mr Monaghan that this will not have a negative impact on the local wildlife.

The committee decided that the meeting of the 5th January 2017 would be dedicated solely to the discussion of the Long Term Legacy of the Ham and that the Chairman will suggest to the Clerk which other experts of outside bodies it would be useful to invite to this meeting.

Jan Lucas and Alan Purkiss also suggested that on future agendas the following four items be repeated until all work is concluded:

- i. Cross Compliance Solutions
- ii. Severn Trent
- iii. A report by Caroline Corsie
- iv. Environment Agency Progress

7. Exclusion of Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during the consideration of the following agenda items.

8. 3 Quotes received for repairs to the Bund for consideration

Committee members opened three sealed envelopes containing confidential tenders for repairs to the Bund. They agreed that they did not have the expertise to make a decision and requested advice. Cllr Badham suggested contacting Andy Noble at Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire Highways for assistance. Chairman and Clerk to contact suitable experts and seek advice from the Borough Council and County Council.

9. Readmittance of Press and Public

It was resolved that the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:15am