

MINUTES OF THE SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2016 AT 9AM

Present: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman), K Brennan, P Clatworthy.

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

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

1. Apologies

- i. Cllr John Badham and Alicia Swanson (Natural England)

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Alan Purkiss – Ham Commons

3. Dispensations

None

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st September 2016

The minutes of the meeting on 1st September 2016 were agreed as a true record.

5. To receive information from TBC regarding the Bund quotes

- i. To consider which quotation to accept so the work can begin. Councillor Pete Aldridge pointed out that specialist tarmac options are also available now.
- ii. The specification needs to be rewritten with professional help and this will mean an extra cost. The specification is too flexible. Quantities are not specified. It must give length, width and depth. The Clerk will ask Andy Noble and Caroline Corsie for suggestions on who to contact.

6. Cross Compliance Solutions

Caroline Corsie explained who they are and what they do. There are a raft of conditions attached to claiming Basic Payment Scheme and Higher Level payments. Inspections could be any time with 24 hours notice. The Clerk keeps the file.

7. Severn Trent

The Chairman updated on the latest work. The leak has been ongoing for 11 months. Severn Trent can't turn off the water. Cllr Aldridge will write to them again to discuss reinstatement dates and warn that the Committee may seek compensation. Tim Perry explained that Severn Trent have compensated local farmers for similar problems. The Committee would like Cllr Aldridge to be very insistent!

8. Report from Caroline Corsie

- i. The wild flower seeds have been sown on the Ham. There will be a cost and the Committee agreed to use the cost centre 2540 Ham Consultancy Management.
- ii. Shad Twait Project – Funding is available. Clerk to liaise with Caroline Corsie. Numbers have been affected by DDT and changes to spawning grounds.

9. Environment Agency Progress

The Chairman updated and the committee were provided with email communications between Evan Hughes of the Environmental Agency and the Clerk. This included a copy of the rolling two week management programme from the Environmental Agency. John Monaghan (Project Manager) is liaising with the Clerk on a weekly basis. Now running approximately 3 months late.

10. To receive the Budget Position update

The report was discussed and it was decided that at the budget planning meeting the cost centres should be written more clearly to identify the cost.

11. Budget Planning 2017/2018

This needs to be done January 2017. Clerk to email last year's budget plan to all Committee members.

12. Long Term Legacy of Ham

Invite to 5th January 2017 meeting: Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust – Adam Taylor and Alicia Swanson and the Riverside Trust. The Committee noted that the Basic payment may stop in 2019 and the Higher Level Stewardship will finish in 2023. The Town Council is the owner of the land but it is suggested that a future management plan for the Ham must be put in place as this will take into consideration future risks and the benefits of grants. The Committee must consider all opportunities and threats to the future of the Ham.

Correspondence had been received from GEP Consulting with reference to Hydropower technology at the weir in Tewkesbury. Jan Lucas agreed to investigate this proposal and report back at the next meeting.

The Meeting ended at 10:40 am