

MINUTES OF THE SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY 2017 AT 9AM

Present: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman) and P Clatworthy

Independent Members: Mr J Lucas

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

1. Apologies

- i. Mr T. Perry
- ii. Mr A. Purkiss
- iii. Ms. A Swanson

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Dispensations

None

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2016

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd November 2016 were agreed as a true record. Ms C. Corsie noted that the costs of the wildflower seeds mentioned in the previous minutes are currently unknown but are estimated at around £300.

With reference to the Shad Twait project, the Clerk had received correspondence from Ms A. Swanson of Natural England via email with reference to the installation of a secured box on the side of the Lower Lode weir on Severn Ham SSSI. The committee gave agreement to Natural England to issue their consent for this installation to go ahead. The box will be used to monitor the use of the weir by migratory fish species particularly the shad. Ms C. Corsie explained that shad are part of the herring family and funding of £19 million has been awarded to the partnerships involved in promoting this project. The name of the project is "Unlock the Severn".

5. To carry out Budget Planning for the 2017/2018 Financial Year

The committee carried out budget planning for the 2017/2018 Financial Year and presented the new figures to the Clerk for inclusion in the budget document to be presented to Full Council on Monday 9th January.

It was requested that grants be denoted differently on the accounts to ensure that their origin is clearer.

6. To receive an update on the Bund

The Clerk notified the committee that Mr A. Taylor has quoted £860 + VAT to produce a specification of works for the Bund repair and that she had contacted him to ask him to go ahead.

7. Long Term Legacy of the Ham

As Ms A. Swanson and Mr A. Taylor were unable to attend the Clerk was asked to rearrange their attendance at an upcoming meeting.

8. Environment Agency Progress

Cllr Aldridge gave an update from John Monaghan on the two weekly work program. He went on to describe track mark damage in an increased area which hadn't been reported to the Town Council and was apparently checked with Natural England instead. He reported that he had reminded the Environment Agency to check with the Town Council as a priority. It was noted that Gordon Campbell had reported that the track will be down for four weeks to remove the sluice and then in again for another four weeks.

Cllr Aldridge suggested to the committee that he and Ms C. Corsie should meet with Cathy Beeching of the Environment Agency to discuss the grass damage along with Alicia Swanson and the Town Clerk. Ms C. Corsie noted that she had further issues she would raise in such a meeting. Ms C. Corsie suggested 19th/20th January or 25th/27th January as potential dates and would contact people individually to arrange.

Cllr Clatworthy suggested a press statement and agreed to contact the Gloucestershire Echo with reference to work on the Severn Ham.

Mr J. Lucas suggested a letter to the Environment Agency to tell them that compensation will be due if damage occurs. Cllr Aldridge replied that the Environment Agency was already aware of this obligation should the need arise.

Ms C. Corsie also reported on a partnership project relating to curlews, eels, and cranes. The project takes place over five years and looks to unlock potential habitats for these animals.

Mr J. Lucas gave an update on an approach by GEP Consultancy. He has made contact with the company and confirmed that this is a no-success no-fee project. He suggested that the committee invite GEP Consultancy to make a presentation to them and he would arrange this.

The Meeting ended at 10:30am