

MINUTES OF THE SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
held on Thursday 15th June 2017 at 9am

Present: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman), C Danter

The meeting was not quorate as only 2 members of the council were present.

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

Also Present: Ms. C Corsie, Ms. C Beeching (Environment Agency)

1. Apologies

- i. Ms A Swanson

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr T Perry, Hay Project; Ms A Swanson, Tewkesbury Commons;
Cllr C Danter, Eel Pass.

3. Dispensations

None

4. To elect the Chairman of the Severn Ham Committee

Cllr C Danter nominated Cllr P Aldridge. Mr T Perry seconded this and all were in favour.

5. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th May 2017

The minutes of the meeting on 4th May 2017 were agreed as a true record.

6. To confirm The Terms of Reference of the Severn Ham Committee

The Terms of Reference were agreed. These will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

7. To receive a Budget Report

The committee received a copy of the budget report.

8. To receive an update from the Chairman on Environment Agency and Severn Trent works

Cllr P Aldridge has spoken to John Monaghan with reference to the reinstatement of the Ham. The Clerk to suggest Mr T Perry's services to John Monaghan. Caroline Corsie will advise. The Committee agreed.

9. To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Conservation Advisor

- i) Caroline Corsie had good news. Yellow Rattle is growing on the Ham. This is a parasite of other grasses which is a bonus because it reduces the abundance of grasses and makes room for more flowers.
- ii) Caroline hopes to get some more seed for 3-4 more hectares of wildflowers.
- iii) Ref docks – there is a very large investigation of dock beetle has damaged the docks and reduced the seed burden. Skylarks are nesting where the docks are. There are also 2 pairs of Curlew.
- iv) Higher Level Stewardship claim has been sent off.
- v) Basic Payment Scheme application has been sent off.
- vi) Caroline attended the Hay Auction and the average cost was £5 per plot. The Committee considered future options for the hay and it's costs to cut and auction compared to income. It is still important to cut and clear the hay annually.
- vii) A 'Conservation Opportunities for Tewkesbury as a whole' meeting to activate and compliment future proofing of the Ham has been very popular. Caroline will forward the Agenda to The Clerk on 11th July 2017 in Council Chamber at 2pm.
Mr J Lucas left the meeting at 9.40am.
Ms C Beeching joined the meeting at 9.40am and Cllr P Aldridge introduced her to the Committee.
- viii) The Clerk left the meeting at 9.50am

10. To discuss the design and position of Tewkesbury Borough Council/Regeneration Partnership information boards

The Clerk is requested to check with Tewkesbury Borough Council to ensure that they had relevant planning permission and that it is compliant with the terms of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

11.To consider new noticeboards and sign posts for the Severn Ham

It was decided that this item referred to the Town Council Noticeboards and that new boards had been promised by Environment Agency (EA). Cathy Beeching confirmed that she would clarify this part of the Agreement. It was also agreed that the Environment Agency would be removing their temporary signs once the work was complete.

12. To receive an update on the Eel Pass Project at Upper Lode Weir

Cathy Beeching confirmed that the Eel pass was a success and the EA had gained much needed information. They would be removing some of the equipment but bringing it back later to conduct continuing and further surveys.

13. To discuss the long term legacy of the Severn Ham

It was felt that there was not enough time at the present meeting to start this discussion and that a separate meeting was called for. It was agreed to hold this meeting before the Multi Agency Meeting on 11th July so that the Severn Ham could feed in positive ideas.

The Meeting ended at 11 am

The decisions of the meeting will be verified at the next meeting on 27th July as the meeting was not quorate.