

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2018

The meeting started at 09.00 am

Present: Cllr P Aldridge (chair), Cllr C Danter, Cllr J Raywood, Mr A Purkiss, Ms C Corsie, Ms A Swanson (arrived at 09.10 am), Mr J Lucas, Mr T Perry

Observers: Cllr S Raywood, Mrs D Hill (Locum Clerk, arrived at 10.15 am)

Invitees attended: Mr Rod Thomas and Mr Graham Morris, representing Severn Trent Water Authority

Item no.	Item	Action
1.	Apologies None received	
2.	To receive declarations of interest Mr A Purkiss – Clerk to the Commons	
3.	To receive dispensations None received	
After item 3 the Standing Orders were suspended in order to move on to items 5 and 6, which ran concurrently.		
5 & 6.	<p>To discuss the recent water leak on the Severn Ham, concerning Severn Trent</p> <p>In the light of the major pipe burst experienced in December, the committee wanted to ascertain STW's plans for the future of that pipe, in order to plan the reinstatement of the condition of the Severn Ham and meet its legal obligations re. grazing, haymaking, etc</p> <p>There are further pipe leaks under the Ham, which need to be addressed. STW representatives described the construction of the three pipes under the Ham and difficulties inherent in fixing them. It was suggested that the insertion of an inner plastic lining would be an effective, though expensive treatment and preferable to the insertion of a completely new pipe.</p> <p>An enquiry was made as to whether it was true if cathodic protection to the pipes had been switched off. STW agreed to investigate this.</p>	Mr R Thomas

Items 5 & 6 continued	<p>The discussion touched on the wide spectrum of complex issues that need to be considered in respect of future work on the Ham, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its SSSI status • Statutory requirements and the penalties to be incurred for not fulfilling them • The potential for damage caused by repair gangs and their vehicles • Commercial interests • The proximity of the pipe to particularly sensitive areas, eg curlew nesting sites, habitat of narrow-leaved waterdropwort <p>It was pointed out that, as bad as this incident was, it could potentially have been much worse and a worst case scenario should be planned for.</p> <p>Natural England has requested that STW have an emergency plan for leakage incidents on the Ham and also submit to them an asset report of all that they own on the site.</p> <p>In the short term STW must ensure its contractors are suitably trained and using equipment appropriate to wetland conditions. The Town Hall should be contacted at the earliest opportunity in the event of future incidents, so that STW's contractors can receive specific information regarding conditions on the site, in order to avoid additional damage.</p> <p>Tewkesbury Town Council seeks a guarantee from STW that steps will be taken to safeguard the integrity of the pipes within the next five years.</p> <p>Mr Thomas (STW) has agreed to make a response to these requests in a report which he will submit before he meets the Committee again at its scheduled meeting in May. Date to be confirmed later.</p>	Action
4.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2017</p> <p>Agreed, subject to the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 10 – a note to the effect that it was the Environment Agency who asked for and will pay for the hydrology report. Cllr Aldridge has denied the hydrologist access to the site for the time being, because the ground is presently too wet. • Ms Corsie's report should be attached. <p>As a matter arising from item 9, the Locum Clerk informed the committee that the Basic Payment has now arrived.</p> <p>Proposed by Mr A Purkiss Seconded by Cllr C Danter</p>	The locum Clerk
7.	<p>Cheque list for signing</p> <p>Three cheques were signed:- for a trough on the Ham, for conservation advice and for cattle grazing.</p>	

Note: Ms C Corsie, Ms A Swanson, Mr R Thomas and G Morris left the meeting at 10.28, after the conclusion of items 5 and 6, in order to discuss immediate strategies that can be put in place.

The meeting ended at 10.45 am.

DRAFT