

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 25th July 2018

Present: Councillors P Aldridge (chairman), C Danter, J Raywood

Also present: Mr J Lucas and Mr T Perry

Action

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Mr A Purkiss, who indicated that Ms C Corsie would not be able to attend either. At this stage it is not certain if other apologies were sent to the Clerk in her absence, by email. The date of this meeting had been changed from the 26th July 2018, firstly to 24th July and then to 25th July. As no one had said they could not attend on 25th, this was chosen in the hope that all, including Ms A Swanson, would be able to attend, as her input could have been particularly valuable at this time.

2. Declarations of interest

In respect of item 12, Cllr Aldridge is a member of Tewkesbury in Bloom.

3. To receive dispensations

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 10th May 2018

Re. item 7, it was noted that, in the end, no plots were left unsold last year. Approval proposed by CD and seconded by TP. **Approved**

5. Matters arising from the minutes – for information only

It was observed that, if there are plots left unsold, they should still be cut as soon and possible and left on the ground.

There is a need to remark plot boundaries, so that their location is clear.

6. To receive a report from the Chairman

In addition to the written report contained in the agenda pack, the committee was informed that the most recent water leak was the result of third-party damage to the pipe. The leak was situated where the oil pipe passes over a water pipe. In accordance with standard practice the water pipe had been covered with a layer of plastic, but this had caused the pipe to sweat and corrode.

The chairman awaits a decision from STW regarding their preferred method of permanently fixing the pipes that burst last winter.

7. **To receive a report from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor**
No report was provided.
8. **To receive a report from Alan Purkis about the grazing contract**
With regret, the committee noted the absence of a report about the grazing contract. It is understood that a key feature of the new contract should be a limit on the type of vehicle that the grazier may take onto the Ham, the problem being that faster, heavier vehicles bounce up and down on the sward and thus compacting it more this may have been a small contributory fact to the leak. This is not such an issue with, say, a quad bike.
9. **To agree to repair the Bund footpath from the footpath bridge to the end of the Healings Mill compound**
During work carried out by STW and EA this part of the footpath has become churned-up and stones have been dislodged from the nearby track. This footpath will have to be reinstated using money from claims made with both the EA and STW. EA have now removed all of their fencing, except one small section by the weir, which remains to protect the public. This will have to be removed, as it is contrary to the act which forbids fencing on the ham. PA
10. **To receive an update from Mike Cluley on compensation claims**
No update was given, since Mr Cluley was absent but the chairman plans to meet up with him to discuss the claims. It expected that STW will pay for repairs discussed under item 9. PA MC
11. **Training requirements in relation to members of this committee**
It was suggested that visits to other similar sites to the Ham would be very useful, eg. to Longdon Marsh, which is also a SSSI. It was agreed that the committee should seek the advice of CC about useful training resources of which she is aware.
12. **To agree to allow a helicopter to land on the Ham on 1st August for the national judging of Britain in Bloom.**
PA abstained from voting on this issue but was permitted to explain that the helicopter would land on the Ham, about 100m from the Abbey Mill, pick up the judges, take them on a 10 minute-long airborne tour of the town and nature reserve, then return to the Ham to drop them off. It is anticipated that the helicopter would be on the ground for a total of 30-45 minutes, maximum.
Proposed by JL, seconded by TP. **Agreed**

The committee agreed to this one-off event in view of the following conditions which prevail on the Ham at this particular time:

- There is deemed to be no fire risk.
- The ground is currently very hard and dry.
- The 1st August falls during the few weeks after the cutting of the hay and before animals must be admitted to graze.
- The skids on a helicopter are not damaging to the sward in the way that wheels are.

It was noted that in times of emergency statutory bodies have a right to land helicopters on the Ham, should the need arise. Action

13. To note receipts and payments for April to June 2018

Noted. A discussion arose, regarding the profitability or otherwise of auctioning the hay and this will be the subject of an item in the September agenda. Clerk

It was requested that a more detailed breakdown of the income and outgoings involved in the harvesting and selling of the hay should be provided by MC. MC

14. To receive a budget report to 30th June 2018

Received

15. To approve cheques for payment

There was one cheque, to CC for environmental advice – **approved**

16. To receive correspondence

On 5th July 2018 the Fire Brigade had to gain access to the Ham in order to put out a fire on the wall of Healing's Mill. Although both they and the Police have access to the code for the padlock, they chose to destroy the padlock instead. Mr Pearman has replaced the padlock at a cost of just under £20 and presented the receipt to the Town Council, for reimbursement. The chairman will write to the Fire Brigade about this issue. PA

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.06 am.