

# TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

## SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE

MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2018

### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs P Aldridge (Chairman), C Danter, J Raywood, Mrs D Hill (arrived at 10.23am), Mr A Purkiss, Mr J Lucas, Mr T Perry, Ms C Corsie, Mr M Cluley (arrived at 9.18am) also, representing Severn Trent Water - Mr M McKenna, Mr J Hawkins and Mr M Hurrell

		Action
1.	<b>Apologies</b> Mr R Thomas (on a training course) It was noted that Ms A Swanson's working hours have changed, so it she might have been unable to attend.	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest</b> Mr A Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners Mr T Perry – item 15	
3.	<b>Dispensations</b> None	
4.	<b>To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b> Proposed – CD, Seconded – JL, <b>Approved</b> AP objected to the way in which items 1 and 8 had been recorded, feeling that the former gave an inaccurate impression of the event and the latter made inappropriate references to the impact of vehicles on the sward, as explained in detail in his email of 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2018. Neither objection was upheld.	
5.	<b>Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only</b> None that are not covered under other agenda items.	
6.	<b>To Receive the Chairman's report</b> Report attached. Re. paragraph 3 – the responsibility for the welfare of livestock rests with the Grazier. Efforts will be made to ensure that the Grazier's contact phone number is more readily available to members of the public. Re. paragraph 4 – noted – a project to register all un-registered property of the Town Council will be discussed at full council.	<b>Town Clerk</b>

**7. To receive a report from Caroline Corsie, Environmental advisor**

- The land is very dry and it has been necessary to source additional hay from the marshlands SSSI hay reserve. With regard to hay restoration in the future, should we retain some of our own hay for strewing?
- The Severn Rivers Trust recently held a meeting at which it stated the intention to continue to train volunteers to monitor the Twait Shad.
- Cross Compliance Solutions have updated and returned the Cross Compliance folder and CC has added an accompanying report outlining the activities of Severn Trent Water and their consequences. The folder will be kept in the town Hall, for reference.
- CC has circulated by email a paper on the Natural Capital of Floodplains. The Natural Capital of a floodplain is highly valued, far more than that of land used in food production, for example.
- Could we buy seeds on which volunteers could feed the birds over the winter? A millet/quinoa mix would be best. About £200 should cover it and will come from the volunteer cost centre.

**8. To receive an update on the Water Environment Grant application**

We are still in the running for a water environment grant and should hear soon. CC feels very hopeful of a positive outcome.

**9. To agree to delegate authority to Caroline Corsie in respect of the purchase of seed in line with guidance by Natural England using their preferred supplier**

Proposed – CD, Seconded – JR

**Approved**

This proposal will cover where we are at the moment and also going forward. Seed from the Clattinger and Cricklade Meadows is very precious and the only suitable source of seeds for the Ham. It is local, has a high provenance, is not heavy on grasses and has lots of flowers in it. There is only the one supplier. The cost will be around £9,000 and we have only budgeted for £2,000. However, the shortfall will be covered by compensation from Severn Trent Water. It will be necessary to ring-fence compensation money for this work, to avoid going over budget in this area. The compensation money should arrive within this financial year.

The seed has been ordered and is currently in cold storage. It needs to be sown as soon as possible, preferably by mid October, especially on the area of the initial pipe burst. TP has said that it could be done next week.

**CC  
Town  
Clerk  
TP**

**10. To receive a report from Alan Purkiss on the grazing contract**

Changes have been made to the contract as requested and CC has seen and approved it. There will probably be no cattle on the Ham this year as the grass is not in sufficient quantity, following the dry summer.

There are around 700 sheep on the Ham at the moment and these will stay there until November. There is a patch of land in the middle of the Ham that is still very brown. Some grasses recover more quickly than others.

**11. To receive an update from Mike Cluley on claims to Severn Trent Water and to the Environment Agency**

Severn Trent Water was represented at the meeting by Mike McKenna, Jim Hawkins and also Mark Hurrell, project manager from Dalcour Maclaren and also representing site investigation company Wardle Armstrong.

Work carried out on the Ham to date was described in three phases – repairs, assurance activities, future plan

- Repairs – all identified leaks have been isolated and repaired. Previously unknown valves have been located and tightened/repaired as necessary. All Harris fencing used during this work has been removed and a check will be carried out to ensure that no pins have been left behind. The contractor was very tidy and has left no litter. **STW**
- PN Daley and Aquam Water Services inserted hydrophones into the medium level mains six weeks ago and issues were found that STW hadn't known about, such as previous repairs and significant tuberculation of the inside surface of the pipes. No further leaks were found. The devised procedure for accessing the Ham worked well. Further areas to check are the pipes at the far north end of the site, the area under the livestock pens where the oil pipe crosses the mains and the joint mend in the middle of the Ham. An external check was carried out on the main. Going forward, hydrophone checks should be carried out routinely. **STW**
- A range of options has been explored, ranging from doing nothing, to diversion, to lining of the existing mains, to replacement. The pros and cons of each were described in detail and it became clear that the preferred solution is to cut a 25m wide strip, install one new pipeline adjacent to the existing ones and then replace one of those existing pipes. Natural England and CC will be consulted throughout the process. The need to preserve the integrity of the top soil removed in the process of making the cut is well understood by STW. All being well, this work will be carried out during next Summer with remediation works continuing into the following year. STW will endeavour to keep footpaths open and provide diversions when necessary. They will also provide resources for community engagement, so that the public understand what is happening. **STW  
CC  
AS**

MM, JH and MH left the meeting after giving this report.

MC has met on the Ham with TP, CC, and PA to discuss reinstatement works. He is currently working on the claim with MH and also Sam Catlin of STW. After a discussion on the relative merits of doing the reinstatement now or leaving it until after the work on the water mains has been done it was decided that it would be better to do the work now and claims have been made accordingly, for about £14,000 from STW and £8,000 from EA. There has been no response from STW to the claim application as yet but there is 99% surety that the claim will be honoured, more or less in full.

Vehicles used in repair work have damaged the footpath and it will need to be repaired next year, after the water mains work is done.

Western Power want to change two H poles near the Abbey Mill. A line shutdown is planned for around 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018. The suggested access route will be alongside Healings Mill and then along the lines. The contractor is known to be very tidy. **Action**

There is a possibility that a herd of Gloucester cattle can be found to graze the Ham once the work on the water mains has been done.

The payment of Graziers needs to be the subject of a discussion in a future meeting. **Town Clerk**

**12. To note receipts and payments for July and August 2018**  
Noted

**13. To receive the committee budget report**  
Received

**14. To consider the preparation of the committee budget for the 2019/2020 financial year and to consider requirements for financial years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022**

The Hay Sowing project will take four years so we need to allow £10,000 next year for this and £9,000 per year afterwards.

The auctioning of the hay needs to be reviewed in a future meeting.

Proposals for next year's budget are as follows:

**Town Clerk**

<b>Code title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Fishing rights	£1,500
Severn Ham Natural England grant	To be confirmed
Severn Ham mowing/hay auction	£190
Severn Ham Single Payment Scheme	To be confirmed
Wayleaves	£695
Commoners' grazing compensation	£2,000
Bund repairs	£9,000
Hay Sowing project	£10,000
Volunteers (rec. prom, and education)	£2,000
Utilities	£250
Auction fees	£450
Weeding	£2,500
Tree conservation	£5,000
Ancillary management and salaries	£4,000
Nesting project and associated signs	£2,000
Carver Knowles Basic Payment Scheme	£2,250
Cross Compliance Consultancy	£500
Conservation advisor	To be reviewed
Footpath repairs	£3,000

- Action**
15. **To discuss the possibility of adding supplementary hay grown on the site from quality areas to be made available if required for cattle as an addition to Higher Level Stewardship**  
 No decision has been made yet. We need to have access to hay of compatible provenance for feeding cattle if they need it, or otherwise we can spread it. CC to consult with AS. The aim is to secure supplies for the future. **CC  
AS**
16. **To agree wording for notices regarding riding of bikes, lighting of fires, dogs on leads, accessibility etc**  
 Deferred until the next meeting, so that this can be given some thought in the meantime. **Town Clerk**
17. **To note the completion of the Upper Lode Weir eel pass**  
 Noted
18. **To receive an update on the Work Experience Placement**  
 Katherine Hill was able to produce a report on lifecycles and needs of Ham wildlife, also maps of the watercourses and notes about the rivers. One copy will go to CC and another into the Cross Compliance Folder. The committee extend their thanks to her for her hard work. **Town Clerk**

TP left the meeting at 11.12 am and CC left at 11.15am.

19. **To approve cheques for payment**  
 The following were approved:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
The Commoners (compensation for reduced grazing period)	£600
Cross Compliance Solutions	£480
R Jackson (for hay seeding)	£550
S Pearman (for replacement padlock)	£20

20. **Correspondence**  
 None
21. **To agree to proposed dates for future meetings**  
 Meetings had recently been moved to Mondays to accommodate the work schedule of AS but that has now changed again.  
 It was agreed that future meetings will be held at two-monthly intervals, on the first Thursday of the month.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.10pm**

**Signature of chairman**

**Date**