

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
6TH JUNE 2019

To: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman), C Danter, J Raywood

Mr A Purkiss, Mr J Lucas, Mr T Perry, Ms Caroline Corsie, Ms Alisa Swanson, Mr M Cluley, Mr M McKenna

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Severn Ham Committee to be held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury, on **Thursday 6th June at 9:00 am**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interests
3. Dispensations
4. To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham committee meeting held on 4th April 2019
5. Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
6. Public Participation *(to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders this will not exceed 12 minutes in total and 3 minutes per person.)*
7. To receive a report from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Adviser
8. To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles
9. To receive an update from Matt McKenna, Severn Trent regarding the new pipeline
10. To note receipts & payments for April 2019
11. To receive the committee budget report
12. To discuss the recent unauthorised vehicular access to the Severn Ham and to agree any further actions
13. To discuss the grazing on the Severn Ham and the response from the National Sheep Association regarding increased sheep sizes and to agree any next steps
14. To discuss magnet fishing on the Severn Ham and agree any actions
15. To resolve that drone flying be prohibited on the Severn Ham, unless prior permission has been obtained from Tewkesbury Town Council
16. To obtain retrospective approval for maintenance works carried out on the Severn Ham by Ben Perry & Robert Jackson
17. To resolve to add Ben Perry and Robert Jackson to the approved retained contractor list
18. To agree to Caroline Corsie being Environmental Adviser to Tewkesbury Town Council for the forthcoming year

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19. To agree to Carver Knowles representing Tewkesbury Town Council for the forthcoming year

20. To approve payments list

21. Correspondence

D. Hill

Debbie Hill
Town Clerk
23rd May 2019



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 4th April 2019
In the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), J Raywood, C Danter (Mayor), Mr J Lucas, Ms C Corsie, Mr T Perry,

In attendance: J King (Assistant to the Town Clerk)

SH 18/037 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr A Purkiss, Mr M Cluley & Mr M McKenna

SH 18/038 To record declarations of interest
Mr Perry – Hay making

SH 18/039 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 18/040 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2019
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2019, subject to the removal of the word 'temporary' in SH 18/032. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 18/041 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only
SH18/026 – Water analysis – details of how the water analysis was carried out were provided by Mr McKenna.
SH18/027 – Nesting signage – action complete. The Town Council would like to thank Mike Smart for his assistance in erecting the signs.
SH18/031 Wildlife records – recording sheet received from GERC
Action: Assistant to the Town Clerk to publicise the ability to record wildlife seen on the Severn Ham at the Town Hall.
SH185/032 Working group meeting – next meeting date is 25th April 2019
SH18/033 – Angling Club – complete
SH18/034 – Signs on the Severn Ham - complete

SH 18/042 To receive the Chair's report
Included within report from Caroline Corsie.



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SH 18/043

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

Natural England require derogations in order to give ascent for activities of ST Water and for during the bird nesting season. There are currently three pairs of curlew checking out the site.

Three derogations have been sent, regarding the Severn Trent pathway and an early cut and two regarding the spraying of docks. All derogations should be used in conjunction with confirmation from Mike Smart and Link Ecology that there are no curlews in the planned areas. It is important to document all actions taken and who permission was granted by. Permission may be required from the Commoners under the Commons Act, to facilitate a change to the cutting schedule.

Action: Assistant to Town Clerk to check with Mr Purkiss regarding Commoners requirements.

Severn Trent are finalising their planning for the work on site. Rob Cunningham is the Environmental Lead and main contact for the project. Soil analysis and water analysis will be done as part of the process. The first stage is a series of bore holes along the line of where they are going to dig. Severn Trent are still waiting on approval from various regulatory bodies, including what to do with any additional soil left over after the pipe has been replaced, as the Environment Agency will consider it waste. Tewkesbury Town Council's role will be to inform and educate people as to the actions taking place with both the replacement of the pipe and the spraying of the docks.

Dock Spraying

Options for dock spraying were discussed. Drones have been used, but skylarks have been known to attack drones. Burning the docks is not an option and electrocution cannot cover an area this large. Spraying needs to take place from a small quad and on foot, by an ecological expert who can identify and avoid any nesting birds in the area. All spraying will be marked with a blue dye and ideally completed by the end of April. The spray used will only affect the docks and the grasses will be unaffected. It is likely that the previous leaks on the Ham have created strong conditions for docks to flourish, as they were not there before. It is important for this work to take place in order for the hay to still have a value, as otherwise the Town Council would have to cut and dispose of the hay, which would be significantly more expensive. The Weeds Act 1959 also remains in force, which states that it is necessary to attempt to control the docks and this is part of the Higher Level Stewardship requirements.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Midland Arboricultural and Woodland Services Ltd to carry out the specialist dock spraying on the Severn Ham and to propose to Full Council that they be added to the list of Preferred Contractors.

Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Raywood.



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Severn Trent have appointed Middlemarch as their consultants who will do the soil sampling. They are also having a day of consultancy from the Floodplain Meadow Partnership which will answer the question as to whether there is any point in exploring enhanced species diversity in the southern half of the site.

Higher Level Stewardship form for 2019 has been submitted.

Action: Obtain copies of permissions Severn Trent have received from the Environment Agency for the planned work.

Action: Obtain reports from Mike Smart, via Rob Cunningham and also cc Mike Cluley so all informed as to actions being taken and up to date information.

SH 18/044 **To receive a report from Alan Purkiss on the grazing contract**
No changes from the last meeting.

SH 18/045 **To receive an update from Mike Cluley on claims to Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency**
A written report was received from Mr Cluley.
Compensation report from Severn Trent has now been received by Carver Knowles. Preferred date for 2019 hay auction is Thursday 23rd May in the Corn Exchange. The donner hay project will continue this year from plots one and three.
Action: Assistant to Town Clerk to write to Mr Cluley to confirm that the Severn Ham Committee believe that the reinstatement completed by the Environment Agency was inadequate and they wish to continue to pursue appropriate compensation.

SH 18/046 **To note receipts and payments for February & March 2019**
The receipts and payments were noted.

SH 18/047 **To receive the committee budget report and to agree the year end actions**
The budget report was noted.
It was RESOLVED to carry forward two items as earmarked reserves:
Weeding £2,000 – to cover dock works
Tree Conservation £5,000 – to cover tree survey and actions
Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 18/048 **To discuss and agree a programme of sward monitoring and cutting for the Severn Ham for 2019**
The 1809 Act originally stated the number of animals that could graze on the Severn Ham (up to 800 sheep). The issue is that the size of animal has increased over the last 200 years. It is thought that animals are now 50% bigger than they were in 1809 and therefore logic suggests that there should be 50% fewer animals on the Severn Ham.



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There are standard formula for calculating the number of animals on an area of land, but they vary depending on the land, animal and the animal's age. For example: 60 hectares (including resting scrub), with 1.4 livestock units per hectare and 6 ewes per livestock unit would be 504 sheep.

The committee felt it is necessary to obtain advice on the size of sheep and breed in 1809 and how many sheep would be the equivalent now, when grazed on land after a hay crop.

Action: Assistant to the Town Clerk to write to Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and the National Sheep Association, Malvern for advice.

SH 18/049

To discuss and agree next steps regarding the sighting of otters / mink on the Severn Ham

There are definitely otters around the Severn Ham. They are depleting the fish, but the fish stocks are ok. It is possible that there are minks around and this needs to be monitored. Mink are very shy and it is unusual to get mink and otter in the same area. Mink are often misidentified as a young otter. Mink are not a desirable species.

Action: To continue to monitor sightings of mink / otter.

To add to futureproofing agenda on 25th April.

SH 18/050

To discuss and agree the mapping of the docks and dock spraying on the Severn Ham

Further to the discussions detailed in Ms Corsie's report:

It was RESOLVED to carry out the digital mapping of the docks as detailed in the quotation from Midland Arboricultural and Woodland Services Ltd; dated 7th March 2019, at a cost of £870 + VAT.

Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

It was RESOLVED to carry out the spraying of the docks as detailed in the quotation from Midland Arboricultural and Woodland Services Ltd; dated 7th March 2019, at a cost of £4180 + VAT per annum, for the first year, with the option to extend for an additional two years, subject to an annual review on the management of docks.

Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 18/051

To discuss and agree next steps for tree maintenance and monitoring ash dieback on the Severn Ham

The ash trees by the weir and the willows need work. The committee agreed that a full tree survey would be beneficial to plan future works.

Action: Assistant to Town Clerk to liaise with Cllr Aldridge regarding quotes and timings for a full tree survey.



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SH 18/052 To approve the payments list
The payments list was approved.
Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 18/053 Correspondence
None received.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes6th June 2019

DRAFT

Tewkesbury Town Council

Listing of Receipts in each Code for Cost Centre - SEVERN HAM
(Between 01/04/2019 to 30/04/2019)

Cost Centre	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheq. No.	Description	Supplier	Vat	Ne	Vat	Tota
Vchr.											

Subtotal for Code:

Subtotal for Cost Centre:

TOTALS

Tewkesbury Town Council

Payment Report - SEVERN HAM
(Between 01/04/2019 to 30/04/2019)

Cost Centre SEVERN HAM

Code Vchr.	Date	2,542 Minute	Bank	Cheq. No.	Description	Supplier	Vat	Ne	Vat	Tota
21	24/04/2019	Retained	Lloyds Bank -	Electronic	Supplies	Haywards Tewkesbury Ltd Subtotal for Code: Signage	S	7.49 £7.49	1.50 £1.50	8.99 £8.99
Code Vchr.	Date	2,543 Minute	Bank	Cheq. No.	Description	Supplier	Vat	Ne	Vat	Tota
42	25/04/2019		Lloyds Bank -	Electronic	Completion of BPS Submission	Carver Knowles Subtotal for Code: Carver Knowles (Basic Subtotal for Cost Centre: SEVERN HAM	S	200.00 £200.00 207.49	40.00 £40.00 41.50	240.00 £240.00 248.99
								£207.49	£41.50	£248.99
TOTALS										

Tewkesbury Town Council
Budget Report - as at 21/05/19
Cost Centre SEVERN HAM

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over
		Estimated	Actual	Variance	Estimated	Actual	Variance	
2,000	Fishing Rights	1,500.00		-1,500				-1,500
2,100	Severn Ham Natural England Grant	22,248.00	5,516.38	-16,732				-16,732
2,103	Severn Ham Hay Auction	600.00		-600				-600
2,105	Severn Ham Basic Payment Scheme	13,000.00		-13,000				-13,000
2,200	Wayleaves	350.00		-350				-350
2,500	Commoners Grazing Compensation				4,000.00		4,000	4,000
2,501	Bund Repairs				9,000.00		9,000	9,000
2,502	Hay Sowing Project				2,000.00		2,000	2,000
2,503	Volunteers (Rec & Prom)				1,000.00		1,000	1,000
2,504	Utilities				250.00		250	250
2,505	Auction Fees				400.00		400	400
2,506	Weeding				2,000.00		2,000	2,000
2,507	Tree Conservation				5,000.00		5,000	5,000
2,540	Ancillary Management/Salaries							
2,541	Nesting Project				1,000.00		1,000	1,000
2,542	Signage				2,000.00	7.49	1,993	1,993
2,543	Carver Knowles (Basic Pavment Scheme)				1,250.00	200.00	1,050	1,050
2,544	Cross Compliance Consultancy				500.00		500	500
2,545	Conservation Advisor				5,000.00	1,250.00	3,750	3,750
2,546	Footpath Repairs							
2,600	Severn Ham Earmarked Reserves							
13,801	Severn Ham Compensation/Repairs		14,924.50	14,925				14,925
NET TOTAL		37,698.00	20,440.88	-17,257	33,400.00	1,457.49	31,943	14,685
V.A.T.						41.50		
GROSS TOTAL			20,440.88			1,498.99		