

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 18th July 2019
In the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury

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

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)
1 member of the public

SH 19/020 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Cody & Mr Purkiss.

SH 19/021 To record declarations of interest
Mr T Perry – Hay Making.

SH 19/022 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 19/023 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2019
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2019.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 19/024 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only
SH18/031 Wildlife records –Severn Ham Facebook page set up - complete
SH18/051 Tree survey – ongoing – work to take place in Autumn
SH19/006 Inspection preparation – complete
SH19/007 Compensation payment – email sent and payment received - complete
SH19/009 HLS options – Caroline Corsie & Mike Cluley to discuss
SH19/010 Vehicular access – Letter sent to Mr Pearman – complete
SH19/010 Notice at Healings Mill – complete
SH19/010 Cadet Access – complete
SH19/011 Grazing options – ongoing
SH19/011 Flock Health Plan – requested
SH19/017 Voting clarification – provided to members - complete

SH 19/025 Public Participation
There was no public participation.

SH 19/026 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor
Meeting was held with CXCS and they went through the legal requirements attached to the HLS and the basic payment scheme. The folder is being sent to the office this week. If an inspection is called, a representative from CXCS will attend.

The nesting bird signs can now be taken down.

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Action: 'Thank you for your participation' signs, re: dogs on leads, to be made and erected.

Lots of monitoring has taken place regarding the curlew over the summer and it is good for HLS evidence, as it is a measure of success. Mike Smart will prepare a short report. The success of the breeding season will not be known for a couple of years, but initial view is that two curlews may have fledged successfully. It was a particularly bad season for ground nesting birds because of the floods and how tight the timing has been with the hay cutting dates.

The Committee discussed the usage of the seed currently in storage with Emorsgate and using hay on the restoration plots. It was suggested that the committee visit a floodplain meadow where restoration has already taken place. Pershore was considered an interesting similar site as a gas pipeline runs through their site. Partnerships, futureproofing and opportunity mapping were also discussed.

Action: Cllr Smith requested a copy of the ELMS report previously circulated.

Action: Agenda item for next meeting – to discuss options for changing the grazing arrangements for the forthcoming year.

SH 19/027 **To receive an update from Mike Cluley on claims to Severn Trent Water (STW) and the Environment Agency**

- No update regarding cattle rather than sheep grazing this year.
- Proposals for pipe replacement have been requested from Severn Trent Water, but nothing received.
- There is a large leak to the north of the Ham which is now really evident since hay cutting. It affects 4 plots and the buyers have made instructions to pursue a claim against STW for compensation from crop losses as they have been unable to mow / bale.
- An update was provided regarding the claim for compensation with the Environment Agency.

Action: It has been requested that the patches are marked again. Not in every corner, but on the two main lines, north to south – perhaps half a dozen big posts every third patch or so. Consider plastic spikes on the top so that they do not become perches for predators. Could this be done with GPS instead? Ask Mr Cluley.

SH 19/028 **To note receipts and payments for May 2019**

The receipts and payments were noted.

SH 19/029 **To receive the committee budget report**

The budget report was noted.

SH 19/030 **To discuss and decide rules / guidelines for the maintenance of the fishing pegs around the Ham by TPAA / maintenance workers hired by TPAA, especially in respect of the trees**

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Permission is given for TPAA to strim around the fishing pegs and to recut the steps into the bank and put the platforms in, as at present. Tree branches should only be trimmed if they are a danger, otherwise the Town Council should be advised of the issue so that action can be taken.

Concerns were raised about the water level in the Mill Avon, it has been particularly low since the work has been carried out between the two footbridges.

Action: Town Council to ask the Environment Agency to increase the flow in the Mill Avon. Copy of letter to be sent to Cllr Smith.

SH 19/031 To approve the installation of a new plinth for a memorial bench on the Severn Ham

It was RESOLVED to approve the installation of a new plinth for a memorial bench on the Severn Ham at a cost of £250. Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Smith.

SH 19/032 To approve the replacement of the noticeboard at the Healings Mill end of the Severn Ham, up to a cost of £1500.

It was RESOLVED to replace the noticeboard at the Healings Mill end of the Severn Ham, up to a cost of £1500.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Smith.

SH 19/033 To approve the purchase of species rich hay for the enhancing project, up to a value of £500.

It was RESOLVED to approve the purchase of species rich hay for the enhancing project, up to a value of £550, subject to Caroline Corsie's approval of the hay.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

Cllr Smith left the meeting at this point.

SH 19/034 To discuss and agree next steps following the future proofing meeting held on 27th June 2019

Recommendations from futureproofing meeting:

- Soil analysis to be requested from Severn Trent Water.
- Pesticides in water. Write to DEFRA, Environment Agency, Severn Trent and Local MP to increase pressure to protect the waterways.
- How to map the footfall on the Severn Ham? Contact companies that provide this data.
- Mapping of Nature Recovery Plan.
- Continue regular futureproofing meetings – next date: 3rd October 2019.
- Display in Corn Exchange on 15th & 16th September re: Severn Ham during Heritage Open Days.

Ms Corsie left the meeting at this point.

SH 19/035 To approve the payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list to a value of £10,066.76.

Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

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SH 19/036 Correspondence

A call has been received regarding the banging / squeaking of the Back of Avon gates. The gate has been oiled and consideration will be given to the banging when repairs are carried out.

Action: Caretaker to fill the frame with expanding foam to dampen the noise.

The meeting closed at 10.32am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes19th September 2019