



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 7th November 2019
In the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), J Raywood, C Danter, C Cody, Ms C Corsie, Mr A Purkiss, Mr J Lucas

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

SH 19/057 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr Mckenna, Ms Swanson & Mr Perry

SH 19/058 To record declarations of interest
Mr A Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners

SH 19/059 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 19/060 To receive a talk from Dr Juliet Hynes on Nature Recovery Networks
Dr Hynes works for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and gave a talk on Nature Recovery Networks (NRN).
NRN form part of the Government's 25-year environmental plan and talks about a network to complement and connect our best wildlife site. It is needed because ecologically, wildlife population in small areas cannot survive long term in isolation. It requires an ecologically functional network of sites to maintain biodiversity and the sites need to be close enough to each other and form a network that allows species to move between them.

The Environment Act is due to be passed in 2020. NRN can help inform planning policy and net gain options (which require a 10% increase in biodiversity). When development has to go ahead, if there is no possible onsite net gain option, the NRN can help to advise on the best offsite mitigation options.

The Gloucestershire NRN consists of looking at the core habitat, the existing connectivity, the restoration zones and how to connect them and the general wider landscape. When complete it will help to identify the priority areas for reconnection and restoration.

There will be four networks which will plot the following habitats:

- Open habitats – grassland / heathland
- Wooded habitat – woodland, parkland, orchards



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- Water and wetland habitat – ponds, rivers, wet grassland (including the Severn Ham)
- Arable – fields, arable weeds, farmland

The networks will look at the generic focal species by defining the minimum habitat patch size and dispersal as well as looking at a cost distance analysis in order to produce a land cover map for Gloucestershire.

NRN should protect our existing priority habitat, to help make more functional connections, expand their area and increase the permeability of the wider landscape and not stop at the county border. The measures need to be repeatable so that it is possible to plot and track changes. When the four networks are put together it will form an opportunity map as it will show the constraints and the opportunities.

Once the work is complete, Dr Hynes will be looking to bring all of the groups together; in the form of stakeholder meetings, to check that the plans are realistic and indicate where the opportunities are.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Dr Hynes and indicated their wish to be involved with her ongoing work.

SH 19/061

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2019

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2019. Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

SH 19/062

Matters arising from the minutes – for information only

SH19/009 HLS options – Ms Corsie & Mr Cluley to discuss – ongoing.

SH19/011 Flock Health Plan – requested by Mr Cluley – ongoing.

SH19/027 Remarking of plots – email sent to Mr Cluley – ongoing.

SH19/036 Gate to Ham – has been filled with foam, issue remains – ongoing.

SH19/043 Response to ST re: reinstatement proposals – draft copy has been circulated – is everyone happy? – **Action:** Letter to be sent

SH19/044 Future proofing discussed Nature Recovery Network – complete.

SH19/049 Thistles – work completed and added to the agenda – complete.

SH19/051 Additional Trough – letter sent to Severn Trent – ongoing.

SH19/056 Letter to the EA – letter sent – response received – complete.

SH19/056 Land ownership issue – with Mr Cluley – ongoing.

SH 19/063

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

SH 19/064

To receive an update from the Chair

The Chair provided an update on the recent leak under the Severn Ham.



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- SH 19/065** **To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor**
The hay and seed for use on the restoration plots was fortunately not spread before the last floods. Seed remains in storage and viability remains intact. If the weather conditions allow in January, the hay and seed will be spread then.
- There is no update on the rollover for the Higher-Level Stewardship Agreement.
- Future partnerships were discussed. There is currently a project underway between the Floodplain Meadows Partnership, Gloucestershire wildlife Trust and Worcestershire wildlife Trust around the Severn. The Committee were interested in how this may be extended out to involve other partners.
Action: Floodplain Meadows Partnership to be invited to meeting on January 16th.
- Severn Vale Guardians with FWAG are carrying out a Curlew project. Mike Smart is the project officer. They have mapped the location of nesting curlew in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. Invite to a future meeting.
- The current waste exemptions require topping up with the Environment Agency.
Action: Caroline Corsie to liaise with the Assistant Town Clerk.
- SH 19/066** **To receive the current finance reports**
The finance report as at 30th September 2019 was received.
A Committee Member asked when the next HLS & BPA payments are due.
Action: Assistant Town Clerk to chase up Natural England.
- SH 19/067** **To discuss and agree on a draft committee budget for Financial Year 2020/21 and to consider the budget requirements for 2021/22 and 2022/23**
The budget was discussed, and preliminary numbers were agreed by the Committee.
- The Committee discussed the expected earmarked reserves at the end of 2020/21.
Action: Cllr Cody to speak to PPNP regarding building owl boxes.
- SH 19/068** **To consider and agree the virement of £4,000 from Ancillary Management and Salaries to £500 for Display Equipment under the Planning Committee and £600 for IT equipment and £2900 to Salaries, both under the Finance Committee**
It was RESOLVED to vire £4,000 from Ancillary Management and Salaries to £500 for display Equipment under the Planning Committee and £600 for IT equipment and £2900 to Salaries, both under the Finance Committee.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr J Raywood .
- SH 19/069** **To agree the next steps regarding tree work on the Severn Ham**
It was RESOLVED to agree a spend of up to £3500 to carry out tree maintenance work on the Severn Ham, commencing with the area between Healings Mill and the Abbey Mill. Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.



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- SH 19/070 To discuss and agree any next steps regarding bins on the Severn Ham**
The dog waste bin by the Abbey Mill has been repaired.
It was RESOLVED to purchase two mixed waste bins at a cost of £600.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.
- SH 19/071 To discuss and agree any next steps regarding work for plant machinery whilst the pipeline reinstatement work is taking place**
There are no current projects that the Severn Ham Committee require plant machinery for.
Committee members requested that Severn Trent are advised that all plant machinery will need to be immobilised when not in use and that there is good signage about the works taking place.
- SH 19/072 To discuss and agree any actions regarding any future unauthorised actions on the Severn Ham**
The Committee agreed that ongoing education is the best way of preventing any unauthorised actions on the Severn Ham.
- SH 19/073 To approve the payments list**
There was no payments list.
- SH 19/074 Correspondence**
A complaint has been received regarding the cattle on the Severn Ham. Notices will be placed on the noticeboards when cattle return to the Severn Ham. It is a requirement of the Higher Level Stewardship that where possible, cattle graze the Ham as it helps create good quality sward.

A response was required to the Environment Agency request that less water goes over Stanshaw Pit and more water is sent into the Avon in order to reduce the level of silt. The response is that Stanchard Pit is a fixed weir and it is not possible to reduce the amount of water going over it without reducing the levels in the Mill Avon.
Action: Assistant Town Clerk to ask the Environment Agency is the sluice at the Abbey Mill can be lowered whilst the river is in flood, so that the silt can move downstream.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes16th January 2020