



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 16th January 2020
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, Mr McKenna, Mr Matt Smart

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk), Mr Mike Smart.

SH 19/075 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr Cluley & Ms Swanson.

SH 19/076 To record declarations of interest
Mr A Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners.

SH 19/077 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 19/078 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2019
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2019.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

SH 19/079 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 – letter sent – complete.
SH19/051 Additional Trough – trough at lower end will be tricky due to water pressure, possibility of a larger trough at the top end of the Ham. Severn Trent to investigate temporary options whilst works take place – ongoing.
SH19/056 Land ownership issue – with Mr Cluley – ongoing.
SH19/065 Floodplains Meadow Partnership – attending meeting on 5th March
SH19/065 Waste Exemptions - ongoing
SH19/066 HLS & BPA Scheme Payments – now received – complete
SH19/067 Owl boxes – Cllr Cody contacted PPNP – add to next agenda.
SH19/074 EA letter re: Abbey Mill sluice – response received – complete.

SH 19/080 Public Participation
There was no public participation.



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SH 19/081

To receive an update from the Severn Curlew Project

Mr Mike Smart gave a presentation on the Severn Curlew Project, including the WWT curlew project and where the Severn Ham fits in. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for the general public to have the opportunity to see the presentation. **Action:** Assistant Town Clerk to investigate dates.

SH 19/082

To receive an update from Matt McKenna regarding the Severn Trent Pipeline work

Matt McKenna & Matt Smart from Severn Trent attended the meeting to provide updates on both the current repair works and the pipeline replacement work. Severn Trent apologised for the issue with the contractors driving outside of the SSSI assent area last week and advised that they will not be returning the site.

Repair works have been taking place since the large failure on the Severn Ham in December 2017. Since then a survey has taken place every three months and a number of identified small leaks have been repaired. This proactive approach has been helping to minimise the damage caused by repairs and allow Severn Trent to repair responsively. The new water main will incorporate permanent monitoring technology, so that visual surveys are no longer required.

Pipeline replacement plans are well underway. The steel pipe has been ordered at a cost of £1.1m. Cathodic protection has been incorporated into the pipe which reduces any corrosion. The main design contractor has been appointed and the restoration plans should be available for review shortly. It is expected that contractors will be based in the Mill from the end of March onwards to set up the site compound and take delivery of the pipe.

Weather allowing, the mowing of the grass strip down the length of the proposed works (to prevent the curlew nesting) should take place in March and will be discussed with Mike Cluley. It is hoped that the disturbance to the curlew will only be for one breeding season. Ideally the pipeline replacement works will start on the actual Ham in May and be completed by September 2020.

The Committee asked about an environmental watching brief, Severn Trent will raise this issue and report back.

Mr McKenna & Mr Matt Smart left the meeting at 10.16am.

SH 19/083

To receive an update from the Chair

The Chair provided an update covering the report from Mr Cluley. Councillors & Officers have been asked to monitor the time they spend dealing with the pipeline replacement work and advise Mr Cluley.



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SH 19/084 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

The current situation regarding the rollover of the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) was discussed, together with the possible new options that may be available, once the detail of the Environmental Bill are known.

Discussions were had regarding the restoration and improvement of the Severn Ham; post pipeline replacement works, and the recent correspondence with Natural England.

Action: Ms Corsie to contact Ms Swanson regarding the feedback on the HLS rollover and appointing a consultancy to cost the improvement options.

Action: Ms Corsie to contact Ms Turtle at Severn Trent regarding the 'Boost for Biodiversity' funding.

Ms Corsie to ask for weekly reports from Severn Trent on environmental watching brief once the work starts. Use the new noticeboard to provide updates to the public about the work.

Cllr Cody left the meeting at 11.00am

SH 19/085 To receive the current finance reports

The finance report as at 6th January 2020 was received.

SH 19/086 To receive an update regarding the EA Land Registry registration and to agree any next steps

It was RESOLVED to register the ownership of the Severn Ham by Tewkesbury Town Council with the Land Registry and to take legal advice from a conveyancing solicitor regarding the EA registration on the Severn Ham.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

SH 19/087 To approve the payments list

The payments list totalling £2185.74 was approved.

Propose by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 19/088 Correspondence

A request was made regarding a potential 5k sponsored run on the Severn Ham. It was felt that it would be more appropriate to recommend the Parkrun loop on the Vineyards.

The meeting closed at 11.12am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes5th March 2020