



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting held on 5th March 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 J Lucas, Ms Swanson & Mr Perry

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

SH 19/089 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr Purkiss, Mr Cluley, Mr McKenna & Mr Smart.

SH 19/090 To record declarations of interest
None received.

SH 19/091 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 19/092 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2020
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2020.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 19/093 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 – issue remains – complete.
SH19/051 Additional Trough – ST investigating – ongoing.
SH19/056 Land ownership issue – Solicitor being appointed – ongoing.
SH19/065 Waste Exemptions – not currently required – complete.
SH19/067 Owl boxes – on agenda – complete.
SH19/081 Curlew Project – Mike Smart presenting at Annual Assembly on 6th April.
SH19/082 Environmental Watching Brief – with Severn Trent – ongoing.
SH19/084 HLS Rollover – JK getting permissions to RPA website – ongoing.
SH19/084 Boost for Diversity funding – ongoing.

SH 19/094 Public Participation
There was no public participation.



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SH 19/095

To receive a presentation from the Floodplains Meadow Partnership

Emma Rothero provided a presentation on behalf of the Floodplains Meadow Partnership. Species rich floodplains meadows are rare in the UK, having suffered a 97% loss since 1945, which are similar to the losses seen across the whole of Northern Europe. Many floodplain meadows are now SSSI.

Species rich floodplain meadows require agricultural management, involving a hay cut and then being grazed. The most species diverse meadows have been managed the same way for hundreds of years. If consistently managed there can be up to 40 species per m². They are naturally fertile systems due to the silt deposited through flooding and this was historically exploited. Species diversity is dependent on the hay cut to balance the nutrient input – ideally this would be done in mid-June and again in mid-September. Historically the management of the Severn Ham has been very similar to other floodplain meadows throughout the country.

The benefits of floodplain meadows are:

- Food for livestock
- Pollination and pest control
- Carbon storage in soils
- Water supply and filtration
- Cultural / tourism/ education/ recreation
- Health – physical and mental and wellbeing

Undisturbed soils have more vegetation cover and store more carbon. Grassland soil is also able to store more carbon than for arable and horticultural land, as well as providing a rich biodiversity in terms of insects and birds as well as botanical species. For further information visit www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk

SH 19/096

To receive an update regarding the Severn Trent Pipeline work

Since the last meeting ST haven't been able to carry out any significant leak detection or repairs on the site due to the conditions.

ST have issued a request for an additional 12 months assent to access the site to carry out Asset Surveys and Leak Detection across the Ham from Natural England. This will hopefully run concurrently with the assent already in place.

The Capital Delivery team are still focusing on detailed design and meeting the tight timescales – obviously this is becoming weather dependant.

SH 19/097

To receive an update from the Chair

- Tree work required on the bund - vehicular access issues.
- Water continues to delay the installation of the new bins and the new memorial bench plinth.



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SH 19/098

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

- Natural England is confident that the Higher-Level Stewardship for the Severn Ham will be extended and that it would advise staying within the HLS. In the meantime, a mid-tier application pack will be obtained.
- Need to look at how to deliver ELMS when it comes online in 2024. The Basic Payment Scheme will also be phased out by 2030. ELMS will consider the six key public goods:
 - Clean air
 - Clean and plentiful water
 - Thriving plants and wildlife
 - Reduction in and protection from environmental hazards
 - Adaption to and mitigation of climate change
 - Beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment

Cllr Cody left the meeting at 10.10am.

- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust are each involved in 20 ELMS pilot schemes. It may be possible to be involved with one of these pilots as a large floodplain meadow site or if not, put a plan together using the knowledge gained from these pilot schemes.
- Ms Swanson advised that Severn Trent had spoken with Natural England regarding the potential appointment of a consultant to oversee not just the restoration project after the pipeline replacement, but the wider vision for the future of the Severn Ham. The Committee agreed that this would be beneficial and asked Ms Swanson to advise that in principal the Committee were supportive of this approach and would welcome the opportunity to work with the appointed consultant and Severn Trent. Discussions were had regarding future partnership working and the format that this may take, especially regarding future proofing and the next 10-30 years of protecting the Ham.
- Mr Cluley is going to work out the area that will be damaged by the pipeline replacement. The HLS claim will need to deduct this area.

SH 19/099

To receive the current finance reports and to agree any earmarked reserves for 2020-21

The finance report as at 25th February 2020 was received.

The Hay sowing project is to be renamed to Hay Projects.

Proposed earmarked reserves are:

£5000 Hay projects – for clearing hay if no buyer can be found

£2050 Carver Knowles – for additional costs re: land registry



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SH 19/100 To discuss and agree any actions regarding bird boxes

Discussions were had about what type of birds do you want to attract to the Ham? Bird boxes are best suited to areas where they struggle to find nests – so not really needed in the Severn Ham, it was felt that any bird boxes should be in Tewkesbury Town itself, to provide a link between the Ham and the Nature Reserve.

A volunteer has approached the committee regarding doing a project about the Severn Ham. The individual holds a Masters degree, specialising in wading birds and it was suggested that collating an up to date species list, as well as including harvest mice, would help make decisions going forward.

SH 19/101 To approve the payments list

No payments list.

SH 19/102 Correspondence

No correspondence has been received.

The meeting closed at 10.55am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes30th April 2020