

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting
Remotely via Zoom on 25th June 2020

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

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

SH 20/001 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Perry, Mr Cluley & Mr McKenna

SH 20/002 To record declarations of interest

Mr Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners

SH 20/003 To consider requests for dispensations

None received.

SH 20/004 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2020.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 20/005 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only

SH19/009 HLS options – HLS Extension applied for – complete.

SH19/051 Additional Trough – ST investigating – ongoing.

SH19/056 Land ownership issue – Solicitor appointed – ongoing.

SH19/082 Environmental Watching Brief – with Severn Trent – ongoing.

SH19/084 Boost for Diversity funding – ongoing.

SH19/110 Dogs on leads – reminder on Facebook – complete.

SH19/111 Fix trough – complete.

SH19/112 Registration of Severn Ham – information sent to solicitors – complete.

Thanks were given to Cllrs S Raywood, J Raywood and Brennan for searching the archives for this information.

SH 20/006 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

SH 20/007 To receive an update from the Chair

The Chair reported that Severn Trent have postponed the pipeline work until 2021, the boreholes remain in order to continue monitoring the pipe.

Poster request regarding keeping the Severn Ham clean has received a great response and is keeping the issue visible on Facebook / Tewkesbury Noticeboard.

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council Caretaking team did a big clear of the Severn Ham - removing two fridges, pallets and seven bags of rubbish.

Trough has been cleaned and the bushes around it are being pruned back to avoid further debris falling in it.

SH 20/008 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

There are at least two pairs of curlew still nesting on the Severn Ham.

Action: Ms Corsie to liaise with Mr Cluley to ensure that those cutting the hay respect the contract terms, particularly regarding the early / late cut, to give the curlew the best chance.

The EA have extended the Severn salmon byelaw and posters have been distributed.

Cross compliance meeting took place between Ms Corsie, Jen King & CXCS to ensure all documentation up to date should there be an inspection.

Greater Dodder is prolific on the Severn Ham this year. It can be found on the banks of the Avon, Swilgate and has reached as far as the mouth of the Severn. It has an interesting effect on the nettles and is good for attracting wasps and insects.

Wildlife snippets are being shared to the Severn Ham Facebook page, receiving a really positive response. Opportunity to use the increased interest in nature to educate and protect the Ham. It is useful to records species that are seen with Gloucestershire Records. Please contact Ms Corsie for more information if interested.

Ms Corsie has been in contact with a soil specialist who has experience of remedial works following damage by water company activities. It was felt that up to date drone footage would be useful to be able to see the current damage.

Action: Cllr Aldridge to contact drone operator who took footage previously.

SH 20/009 To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles

The hay auction brought in £2000, net of costs. This is significantly more than last year due to a shortage of fodder this year.

SH 20/010 To receive the committee budget report for April 2020

The committee budget report was received.

SH 20/011 To approve expenditure relating to the hay restoration work

Unfortunately, due to flooding, the proposed hay restoration work was unable to go ahead. It is hoped that this year may be more successful. Plots 1 & 3 are due to be restored using hay from Marshlands. The hay continues to suffer from a lack of diversity, primarily due to weedkillers in flood water.

The cost for the hay project (harrowing of patch ready for donner hay, collection and spreading of hay, ring rolling and flail topping of weed patches) will cost £1775.

In addition to the 100 bales in storage, there are another 50 bales available at a cost of £250.

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

It was RESOLVED approve the expenditure of £1775 to Mr B Perry for the hay restoration works and £250 for 50 hay bales to Mr Jackson.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Mr Purkiss.

SH 20/012 To agree to Caroline Corsie being Environmental Adviser to Tewkesbury Town Council for the forthcoming year

It was RESOLVED to appoint Caroline Corsie as the Environmental Adviser to Tewkesbury Town Council for the forthcoming year.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Mr Purkiss.

SH 20/013 To agree to Carver Knowles representing Tewkesbury Town Council for the forthcoming year

It was RESOLVED that Carver Knowles should represent Tewkesbury Town Council for the forthcoming year.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

SH 20/014 To approve the payments list

There was no payments list

SH 20/015 Correspondence

The Committee discussed having bees on the Severn Ham. It was felt that there was no suitable protected location and that it is important to increase the wild bees on the Ham, rather than 'domesticated' bees.

Issues were raised regarding bikes on the Severn Ham and the increasing use of barbeques. **Action:** Assistant Town Clerk to put out reminders on Facebook and signs in noticeboards.

Riparian responsibilities were discussed regarding the blockages on the Lower Avon. **Action:** Assistant Town Clerk to investigate; including contacting other riparian owners and obtain costings to clear.

The meeting closed at 9.55 am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes25th June 2020