

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Remotely via Zoom on 4th February 2021 at 9.00am

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), J Raywood, C Cody, S Raywood, K Brennan, Ms C Corsie, Mr J Lucas, Mr A Purkiss, Mr M McKenna, Mr S Kerr, Mr O Fielding, Cllr Danter, Mr M Cluley

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

SH 20/049 To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

SH 20/050 To record declarations of interest

Mr Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners

SH 20/051 To consider requests for dispensations

None received.

SH 20/052 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 20/053 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only

SH19/051 Additional Trough – ST investigating – ongoing.

SH19/056 Land ownership issue – has been submitted – ongoing.

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

SH19/084 Boost for Diversity funding – ongoing.

SH20/008 Drone operator – ongoing – footage required for Southern end of Ham

SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham - ongoing

SH20/027 Acre trial site – letter sent - complete

SH20/029 Investigating floristic diversity & NE approval – ongoing

SH20/043 Tewkesbury Popular Angling – contact made and posters displayed - complete

SH 20/054 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

SH 20/055 To receive an update from the Chair

The Chair reported that any items he wished to raise were covered in the rest of the agenda.

SH 20/056 To receive an update from Severn Trent Water

Mr Kerr & Mr Fielding attended the meeting and provided an update.

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Scheme of work has been sent out to tender and a preferred contractor appointed. Final forms need to be submitted to EA and NE, as well as the official land entry notices. Letters have been sent to the residents of Tewkesbury regarding the planned works. The pipes have been ordered and delivery of them has commenced. Work is expected to commence on 6th April on Breakingstone Meadow and approximately two weeks later on the Ham. Bird dissuasion measures will start in March. The weather continues to be the main risk to the project.

Penny Anderson has been appointed as the Ecological Consultant. Section 38 Commons Consent application form submitted and the representation period ends on 12th February. Public rights of way closure has been submitted and there will be five crossing sites. The committee advised that no gravel or stone may be brought on to the Ham, it was suggested that metal track matting was used in the crossing places.

Committee would like to meet with the contractor before the work starts. It was noted that the next meeting of the Severn Ham Committee may be after the commencement of the work. It may be necessary to hold a pre-works meeting in March. Severn Trent support taking soil samples prior to the work commencing.

SH 20/057

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor, including the current status of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme

Ms Corsie advised that the pollarding work has been unable to take place due to the weather. The derogation will now have to be reapplied for, for the work to take place late July / August.

There will be a significant amount of plastic that will be left on the Ham when the water subsides, which will have an impact on the hay making. It was suggested that Tewkesbury Litter Pickers and Friends of the Earth may be able to assist with this.

The extension to the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) forms have been received from the Rural Payments Agency. This extension will take it through to the end of December 2022. Forms will be submitted this week. The key points of the HLS were discussed including the fact that there should be no supplementary feeding on site without a derogation from Natural England, the need to have a process for monitoring grass height and that soil pH and phosphate levels should be monitored.

The Severn Ham continues to be part of the Defra test and trial site for ELMS. The link with Karen Colburn (appointed by Severn Trent to look at the vision for the Severn Ham) will be a key part of the process and it is hoped that a meeting between Karen and the Committee to kick off the process could be arranged.

SH 20/058

To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles

Due to a bad connection, Mr Cluley will circulate a written report.

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SH 20/059 To consider and agree the number and cost of soil samples to be taken prior to the Severn Trent works commencing on the Severn Ham

It is necessary to have a baseline detail for the soil, in both disturbed and undisturbed areas, so that after the restoration work it can be compared to the soil before the works commence.

It was REOLVED that 20 soil samples at a cost of £30 each will be taken prior to the Severn Trent works commencing on the Severn Ham. This sampling will continue each year for five years.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 20/060 To receive the committee budget report

The committee budget report was received. £910 reinstatement expenditure reimbursement has been submitted to Severn Trent.

SH 20/061 To consider and agree preliminary figures for earmarked reserves

It was RESOLVED to agree the following preliminary earmarked reserves:

4855 Hay sowing - £3675 for floristic diversity work on bund.

4870 Weeding - £1000 to treat weeds when work becomes viable.

4875 Tree conservation - £3000 for riparian works that will not be completed this year due to the flooding.

Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 20/062 To approve the payments list

The payments list totalling £7667.74 was approved.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

SH 20/063 Correspondence

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have approached the Committee regarding the possibility of running youth volunteering (post Covid) on the Severn Ham and at the Nature Reserve. It is anticipated that there will be two groups, one for 15-18 year olds and the second for 18-24 year olds. It was felt this would be of benefit to the Ham, an opportunity to get young people engaged with nature and there was no objection in principle.

The meeting closed at 10.07 am.

Next meeting Thursday 22nd April at 9am

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes22nd April 2021