

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Remotely via Zoom on 12th November 2020 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

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

SH 20/035 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Cluley & Cllr Danter

SH 20/036 To record declarations of interest

Mr Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners

SH 20/037 To consider requests for dispensations

None received.

SH 20/038 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

SH 20/039 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

SH20/015 Riparian clearance – on the agenda

SH20/024 Nature videos – future project

SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham- ongoing

SH20/027 Acre trial site – letter to be sent - ongoing

SH20/034 Graffiti on Healings Mill – letter sent - complete

SH20/029 Investigating floristic diversity & NE approval - ongoing

SH 20/040 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

SH 20/041 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 20/042 To receive an update from Severn Trent Water

Mr McKenna reported on the current situation on the Ham. The standing water near the Abbey Mill has been tested but shows no chorine and the loggers are also

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showing no leak along the pipe. An internal check of the mains pipe is due w/c 23rd November, to ensure there are no issue before the winter flooding season. The overgrown compound at the north end of the Severn Ham, belonging to Severn Trent is also being cleared, ready for the work next year.

Mr Kerr provided an update on dates for the future work.

Design work is completed and has been sent to contractors for pricing. Potential contractors visited the site this week.

Discussions regarding the final reinstatement are taking place with EA & Natural England. Ben Perry has been confirmed as the contractor to do the restoration work.

A strip has been cut along the pipeline to discourage birds for nesting in the pipeline location. It is hoped work will start on site 6th April 2021, lasting through to September / October 2021.

Mr Kerr requested input regarding the type of fencing to be used.

The Committee requested that the fencing sits on the ground, rather than posts in the ground. They acknowledge that the key requirements are to keep the site safe, allow birds to move through it and not cause a flooding risk.

The Committee also raised questions regarding maintaining access for hay making in June & July, if there was a way of phasing the work and that there may be issues with public rights of way.

A Councillor asked about how the public will be informed about the work. Mr Kerr advised that there will be a designated communications person and he will put them in touch with the Assistant Town Clerk.

SH 20/043

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

Ms Corsie advised that there was a lot of activity happening right now. The Agriculture Act was published on 11th November, many areas that the Committee have talked about and explored through future proofing discussions are now coming together. Severn Trent are in the process of appointment an Environmental Consultant; Penny Anderson and also Karen Colbourne who will be looking at the strategic vision.

There are still some sheep on the site, issue regarding the Greater Burnett as the sheep are eating it very short.

Approval for riparian works has been sent to Natural England, they have requested further information. Ms Corsie will respond.

First draft of ELMS land management plan has been drawn up and it confirms that that site qualifies to contribute to the six public goods. Interesting calculation is that the flood water storage is equal to 213 Olympic sized swimming pools.

Ms Corsie has circulated the latest Floodplains Meadows Partnership (FMP) newsletter to the Committee. Floodplain meadows have not been identified as a key landscape character within ELMS and the FMP are talking with DEFRA about the

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inclusion within ELMS. It is important to have the uniqueness of the Ham recognised as without it there could be significant financial implications.

Issue raised regarding individuals fishing from the Ham who may not have a licence.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to write to Tewkesbury Popular Angling. Notices also to go in Severn Ham noticeboards advising that a licence is required to fish from the Ham.

SH 20/044

To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles

Mr Cluley provided a written report

- Severn Trent currently in process of inviting tenders for the main pipe laying works.
- Curlew mitigation currently underway with topping of working strip by Ben Perry (aim to prevent curlews nesting in shorter grass).
- Ongoing discussions over working methods. EA do not want STW to open up a trench more than 100m long at any one time when laying the pipe.
- Ongoing discussions about fencing off working strip during works in terms of both livestock and public exclusion for Health and Safety. Whatever fence is considered potentially needs to be removable / droppable in case of a flood. Also need to consider crossing points for livestock.
- Reinstatement of Excavations – Ben Perry completed reinstatement and seeding of grass only mix on areas of trial holes in order to try to ensure green cover over winter.

SH 20/045

To receive the committee budget report

The committee budget report was received.

SH 20/046

To discuss and agree the proposed riparian works and associated costs

The Committee discussed the proposal regarding the riparian works. It was noted that due to the sensitive nature of the work and the location, it was only possible to obtain one quotation from a contractor familiar with the sensitivities of working on the Severn Ham. Any damage caused to the site by using a contractor not familiar with it, could affect the payments received as part of the Higher Lever Stewardship. The Committee therefore wished to accept the quotation from this contractor.

It was RESOLVED to award Ben Perry the contract for the clearing and pollarding of trees south of the Abbey Mill, in order to fulfil the Town Council's riparian responsibilities at a cost of £3,200. This will be funded from the earmarked reserves for tree work on the Severn Ham.

Proposed by Mr Purkiss, seconded by Mr Lucas

SH 20/047

To approve the payments list

The payment list totalling £9468.25 was approved.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

SH 20/048

Correspondence

Notification from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) that the AGM will take place on 17th November 2020 via Zoom.

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The meeting closed at 10.15am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes4th February 2021