

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Remotely via Zoom on 22nd April 2021 at 9.30am

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), J Raywood, S Raywood, C Danter, K Brennan, Ms C Corsie, Mr J Lucas, Mr A Purkiss, Mr T Parry, , Mr S Kerr (Severn Trent), Ms S Currall (Severn Trent), Mr O Fielding (Dalcour Maclaren), Mr N McGovern (Geda Construction),

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

SH 20/071 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Cody.

SH 20/072 To record declarations of interest
Mr Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners.

SH 20/073 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 20/074 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021
Subject to two amendments to SH20/069 - the word 'doner' being replaced with 'recipient' and the inclusion of 'Mr Purkiss expressed concern at water being pumped into the middle of the Ham.
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter

SH 20/075 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH19/051 Additional Trough – Mr Purkiss, Mr Fielding, Ms Corsie & Mr Cluley to discuss most appropriate location.
SH19/056 Land ownership issue – has been submitted – ongoing.
SH19/082 Environmental Watching Brief – closed as part of general works.
SH19/084 Boost for Diversity funding –closed, not applicable at the moment.
SH20/008 Drone operator – closed, as works have started.
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing.
SH20/029 Investigating floristic diversity & NE approval – ongoing.

SH 20/076 Public Participation
There was no public participation.

SH 20/077 To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions
Mr McGovern provided an update.
Main works started on 6th April. Compound is set up and work initially started in Breakingstone Meadow.

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Work on the Ham started on 10th April. Majority of fencing is complete and crossing points are in place. Topsoil stripping has commenced and the protective measures for the oil pipeline and existing water main are in place.

Work on the haul road continues and Severn Trent are taking advantage of the dry weather. Being able to remove the topsoil and seal it in the bund during the good weather, helps to protect the integrity of the soil.

Pipe laying will start in two to three weeks. Bird dissuasion measures continue, and groundwater sampling has been happening.

The Committee asked if the damage around the existing mains will be repaired as part of the restoration? It has been the route for vehicles going to repair leaks over previous years. Mr Kerr to speak to operations about the possibility. Mr Kerr shared a drone picture that shows the rutting from this damage.

A Committee member raised an issue regarding the new crossing point in the centre of the site encouraging people to walk across an area that is not a definitive footpath. Mr Fielding advised that they had been placed with advice from Gloucestershire Highways and experience where people tend to climb fences into the works, rather than walking back on themselves. Severn Trent are happy to put up more signs about ground nesting birds.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to talk with Mr Fielding regarding signs and crossing points.

Severn Trent advised that the contractors onsite were approached this week by the Environment Agency about access in order to do some fish trapping. Severn Trent gave their contract details to Mr Cluley.

SH 20/078

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

HLS claim form has to be in by May 15th and the Cross Compliance annual review should also take place soon.

Ms Corsie would like to take soil samples from some of the bunds. Severn Trent are happy to assist and can organise or escort her to the locations.

With the restoration programme, strongly in favour of a 'belt and braces' approach, combining green hay, brush harvesting and also purchasing seed from Emorsgate.

On the wildlife side of things, tadpoles have been rescued and released at their new home on the Tewkesbury Nature Reserve took the tadpoles. The grass cover is particularly poor this year, due to the weather conditions and overgrazing in the Autumn.

The new hi-vis 'Severn Ham Guardian' vests seem to be receiving a positive response. Most people seem to be keeping their dogs on leads.

SH 20/079

To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles

No report.

SH 20/080

To discuss and agree any actions regarding the proposed eel pass at Abbey Mill

The building of the eel pass will take place on EA owned land, so the issue is regarding the access route. The current proposed access (which is the one used previously) along the edge of the bund caused significant damage to the number of

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rare plants and can still be seen today. The restoration work that was done was also of a poor quality.

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the legislation regarding remote meetings runs out on 7th May, so the Committee will not be able to meet and make decisions until 21st June.

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Assistant Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair and Ms Corsie to negotiate with the Environment Agency and move this forward. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

No planning application has currently been submitted regarding the works.

SH 20/081 To receive the committee budget report
The budget report was received. It was noted that the reinstatement costs had been received from Dalcour Maclaren.

SH 20/082 To approve payments list
It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £9681.99. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 20/083 Correspondence
The Assistant Town Clerk shared the proposed new signs for the Severn Ham regarding dogs on leads. The Committee supported the new look sign.

The Committee discussed the empty shop window project and taking on a window for the Severn Ham. Cllr J Raywood has been collecting items and will liaise with Cllr Brennan regarding it. The Committee were in favour of the idea.

Earth Stars - Glos Wildlife Trust scheme starts on the Ham in May. Shad counting in the first session, but will be documenting species on the Ham later in the year. Will be on the Ham every other month.

The meeting closed at 10.58am

Next meeting: To be advised.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes