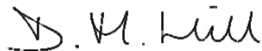


TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
12TH MAY 2022

To: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman), C Danter, J Raywood, C Cody, R Gurney, Mr A Purkiss, Mr J Lucas, Mr T Perry, Ms C Corsie, Mr M Cluley.

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Severn Ham Committee to be held in the George Watson Memorial Hall, Barton Street, Tewkesbury on **Thursday 12TH May 2022 at 9:30 am**

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.



Debbie Hill
Town Clerk
26th April 2022

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interests
3. Dispensations
4. To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham committee meeting held on 24th February 2022
5. Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
6. Public Participation *(to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders this will not exceed 12 minutes in total and 3 minutes per person.)*
7. Correspondence
8. To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions
9. To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions
10. To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Adviser
11. To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles
12. To receive the committee budget report
13. To retrospectively agree the additional earmarked reserves from the hay auction for the end of the financial year 2021/22
14. To consider the request for an additional bench on the Severn Ham
15. To review the fishing rights and costs and to agree any actions
16. To approve payments list



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at George Watson Memorial Hall on 24th February 2022 at 9.30am

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), C Cody, J Raywood, S Raywood, Ms C Corsie, Mr Cluley (Carver Knowles), Mr A Purkiss, Mr T Perry, Mr S Kerr (Severn Trent), Ms Martyn-Smith (Dalcour Maclaren), Mr N McGovern (Geda Construction), Mr T Callaghan (Turner & Townsend), Mr R Garside (Fisher German), Mr P Herickx (Environment Agency), Mr J Wallace (Jackson Engineering)

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk), Mr M Smart (WWT), one member of the public

SH 21/031 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr J Lucas.

SH 21/032 To record declarations of interest
Mr Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners.

SH 21/033 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 21/034 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2021
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2021. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Mr Purkiss.

SH 21/035 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH19/056 Land ownership issue – has been submitted – ongoing
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing
SH21/008 Futureproofing project – Karen Colbourne – ongoing
SH21/008 Baseline monitoring for Ham – Futureproofing work will cover - complete
SH21/011 Hay spreading on bund – date to be circulated when conditions are favourable for spreading hay - ongoing
SH21/012 SUP Access – referred to Buildings & Moorings Committee and Victoria Gardens access referred to Tewkesbury Borough Council - complete
SH21/025 – EA to investigate possibility of using barges rather than haul road – not possible - complete
SH21/026 – Sheep removal was requested - complete

SH 21/036 Public Participation
There was no public participation.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SH 21/037

To receive a briefing from Mike Smart from WWT, re: Severn Curlew Project

Mr Smart has been monitoring curlew throughout the Severn Vale for many years. Since 2019 WWT have started a formal project, which is extending and developing. The aim is to look at the remaining breeding population between Gloucester and Upton on Severn, and Pershore on the Avon.

Curlews are the biggest bird conservation issue in the UK. The UK holds 25% of the world's population in the breeding season and another 25% come in from North West Europe to over winter. There is a small but steady population in the Severn Vale of approximately 35 nesting pairs. This population is holding solid, but overall curlew are experiencing a decline due to the loss of habitat, heavy predation and conflicts with agriculture. Curlews can live for 20-30 years, but are not very efficient at raising their young.

As part of the mains replacement, Severn Trent appointed an ornithologist who monitored the Ham. This monitoring showed that two pairs bred successfully last year, one on the Ham and one on Breakingstone Meadow (which was closed to the public).

In certain locations the project is more interventionist (drones, tagging, electric fences, egg incubation), as the WWT believe you could just be monitoring extinction, but on the Severn Ham it will be a watching brief. Curlews will tolerate public use as long as they don't get too close, signs are important for keeping dogs on leads.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to update Facebook and arrange for signs to be put up as soon as water subsides.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to contact Upton Ham to create a link between Hams.

SH 21/038

To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions

A written report had been provided by Severn Trent. Mr Kerr & Mr McGovern provided the following additional information:

Geda continue to provide regular monitoring. Flooding confirms decision to leave haul road in place and success of the design will be see as the flooding subsides. Bird dissuasion measures have commenced and will take place in the working area only.

Current plan is to return to site towards the end of March. A 10-12 week programme will follow to remove the haul road and complete the reinstatement. Later in the year the stock proof fence wire will be removed, but the posts will stay in place until after the hay cutting. Monitoring will be required to avoid overgrazing.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SH 21/039 To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions

A written report had been provided by the Environment Agency. Mr Herickx provided the following update:

The start date has been pushed back to the 7th March and will depend on the amount of water on the Ham. Works are ready to start as soon as conditions will allow. The EA will mirror the action Severn Trent are taking in terms of bird dissuasion and proposed reinstatement. Access road will be post and wire and heras fencing will be used at the satellite compound. The whole project should take 120 days from the start and the timetable is set out in Appendix 1 of the agenda pack.

Following questions raised by the Town Council, the EA advised that otter will not be attracted to the pass. It is not possible to stop them getting in, but there is also nothing that will stop them getting out. The EA have discussed this issue at length.

The number of heavy vehicles on site will be limited. Compaction testing has taken place and a more appropriate plastic tracking will be used, rather than the metal tracking used historically. In addition, the works are taking place at a better time of year.

The finished eel pass was discussed to ensure there would be no open ditches left. Mr Herickx confirmed that a 38mm grid will be used to seal the unit and it would be checked that this was stockproof.

It was RESOLVED to approve the construction programme as proposed by Environment Agency in Appendix 1 of their report.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 21/040 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

Ms Corsie provided an update. She has been involved in a lot of dialogue with the EA, Severn Trent and Karen Colbourne the Town Council's behalf.

With regard to the future proofing, Ms Corsie is keen to see some of the discrepancies within the Higher Level Stewardship resolved, for example it currently does not take account of the curlew.

With regard to moving to ELMS, new schemes are being released and these are being actively monitored, but at present the relevant options for the Ham are not open. The timing also has to be right to move to the new scheme. The HLS application for a rollover to the end of 2023 has been submitted, but this does not preclude moving to a new scheme within that timeframe. Soil samples will be taken shortly, and the new schemes have an emphasis on soil health.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Issues raised include the seedling docks along the working strip and what action will be required prior to the reinstatement with the green hay.

Action: Severn Trent and Environment Agency to provide information for Facebook and noticeboards regarding bird dissuasion details.

CLlr Cody advised that Gloucestershire County Council have appointed a biodiversity officer to work with partners.

Action: Mr Cluley, Ms Corsie and Assistant Town Clerk to liaise with Cllr Cody regarding this opportunity.

- SH 21/041** **To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles**
Mr Cluley advised that all items had been covered in previous items.
- SH 21/042** **To consider a proposal from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust that the Town Council purchases back the Mythe Nature Reserve and to agree any next steps**
The Committee received the written report on the proposal. Small though the site is, it is an important connector between Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. The site will require management (as set out in the report) but it is a valuable asset.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the Town Council purchases back the Mythe Nature Reserve from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.
- SH 21/043** **To consider a request from Environment Agency regarding byelaw signs around the Ham and next steps**
Deferred to next meeting.
- SH 21/044** **To consider a request from Tewkesbury Rejuvenation Initiative to use the Ham during the River Festival (25th & 26th September 2022) for a fun run**
Request was declined. Vineyards to be suggested as an alternative venue.
- SH 21/045** **To receive the committee budget report**
The budget report was received.
- SH 21/046** **To agree the earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year 2021/22**
It was RESOLVED to approve the following earmarked reserves:
500/4860 Volunteers - £2000
500/4870 Weeding - £2500
Proposed Cllr J Raywood, seconded Cllr S Raywood.
- SH 21/047** **To approve payments list**
It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £4,514.35.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr S Raywood.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SH 21/048 Correspondence

The response to questions previously responded to under SH 21/030 was read out.

The meeting closed at 10.54

Next meeting: 12th May 2022

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 12th May 2022

DRAFT

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 26/04/2022

Month No: 12

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
500 Severn Ham							
1620 Hay Auction	0	5,206	190	(5,016)			5,000
1630 Basic Payment Scheme	0	14,150	13,000	(1,150)			
1640 Wayleaves	0	377	390	13			
1700 Fishing Rights	0	1,500	1,500	0			
1710 HLS Payment	0	22,066	22,248	183			
Severn Ham :- Income	0	43,299	37,328	(5,971)			5,000
4450 Maintenance	2	69	1,500	1,431		1,431	
4550 Water	0	80	255	175		175	
4850 Commoners Grazing Compensation	0	600	4,500	3,900		3,900	
4855 Hay Sowing Project	0	3,600	5,000	1,400		1,400	
4860 Volunteers (Rec & Prom)	0	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	
4865 Auction Fees	0	500	468	(32)		(32)	
4870 Weeding	0	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	
4875 Tree Conservation	0	3,200	3,000	(200)		(200)	
4880 Ancillary Management	0	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	
4885 Nesting Project	58	165	2,000	1,835		1,835	
4890 Carver Knowles	200	200	2,341	2,141		2,141	
4895 Cross Compliance Consultant	0	440	520	80		80	
4900 Conservation Advisor	0	5,000	5,462	462		462	
4905 Footpath Repairs	0	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	
4910 Reinstatement Expenditure	0	350	0	(350)	520	(870)	
Severn Ham :- Indirect Expenditure	261	14,204	36,546	22,342	520	21,822	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(261)	29,095	782	(28,313)			
6001 less Transfer to EMR	5,000	5,000					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(5,261)	24,095					
Grand Totals:- Income	0	43,299	37,328	(5,971)			
Expenditure	261	14,204	36,546	22,342	520	21,822	
Net Income over Expenditure	(261)	29,095	782	(28,313)			
less Transfer to EMR	5,000	5,000					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(5,261)	24,095					

Earmarked Reserves

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR B&M Museum Maintenance	11,240.00	-11,240.00	0.00
321 EMR B&M Town Hall Gardens	250.00		250.00
322 EMR B&M Moorings Prior's Court	19,894.23		19,894.23
323 (Not In Use)	0.00		0.00
324 EMR E&A Noticeboards	1,447.00		1,447.00
325 EMR E&A Playground Projects	7,110.00	-640.00	6,470.00
326 EMR E&A Youth	6,615.00	-2,510.00	4,105.00
327 EMR Fin Asset Management Proj	3,821.00		3,821.00
328 EMR B&M War Memorial *	5,557.73		5,557.73
329 EMR SH Severn Ham	6,140.00		6,140.00
330 EMR E&A CCTV	3,074.00	-3,074.00	0.00
331 EMR E&A Tree Maintenance	5,150.00		5,150.00
332 EMR E&A Street Furniture	4,029.00	-4,029.00	0.00
333 EMR E&A Toilet Block Project	6,394.00	-6,394.00	0.00
334 EMR E&A Gloucester Road Maint.	0.00		0.00
335 EMR E&A Bus Shelters	2,000.00		2,000.00
336 EMR Fin Regalia	0.00		0.00
337 EMR Fin Website	2,160.00		2,160.00
338 EMR Fin Professional	0.00		0.00
339 EMR Fin Legal	0.00		0.00
340 EMR Fin Elections	3,000.00		3,000.00
341 EMR Fin Tourism & Marketing	1,474.00		1,474.00
342 EMR Fin Newsletter	500.00		500.00
343 EMR SH Weeding	3,000.00		3,000.00
344 EMR SH Severn Ham Tree Maint	8,000.00		8,000.00
345 EMR SH Hay Sowing Project	8,675.00		8,675.00
346 EMR SH Carver Knowles	2,050.00		2,050.00
347 EMR Pla Comm. & Display	2,500.00	-1,194.00	1,306.00
348 EMR Pla Outreach Sessions	342.00		342.00
349 EMR B&M Moorings Projects	4,263.00		4,263.00
350 EMR B&M Watson Hall Lease *	20,000.00		20,000.00
351 EMR B&M Moorings St Mary's Rd	2,433.00		2,433.00
352 EMR Insurance	1,556.00		1,556.00
353 EMR Shop Windows Project	3,890.00	-599.98	3,290.02
354 EMR TH Maintenance	5,831.00		5,831.00
355 EMR WH Projects	10,515.00		10,515.00
356 EMR WH Bar Equipment	1,619.00		1,619.00
357 EMR Museum Roof Project	18,750.00	-18,750.00	0.00
358 EMR Mythe Nature Reserve	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
	<u>183,279.96</u>	<u>-43,430.98</u>	<u>139,848.98</u>