



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at George Watson Memorial Hall on 12th May 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), Mr O Fielding (Dalcour Maclaren), Mr T Callaghan (Turner & Townsend), Ms M Gaden, (Fisher German), Mr P Herickx (Environment Agency), Mr P Charning (Jackson Engineering)

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk), three members of the public.

SH 22/001 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr J Lucas & Mr N McGovern.

SH 22/002 To record declarations of interest
Mr Purkiss – Clerk to the Commoners
Mr Perry – re: reinstatement discussions
Cllr Danter – re: fishing rights

SH 22/003 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 22/004 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2022
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2022.
Proposed by J Raywood, seconded by Cllr C Danter.

SH 22/005 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH19/056 Land ownership issue – response received from Land Registry – ongoing
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing
SH21/008 Futureproofing project – Karen Colbourne – ongoing
SH21/011 Hay spreading on bund – date to be circulated when conditions are favourable for spreading hay – ongoing
SH21/037 Dogs on lead signs – to go up on Ham – complete
SH21/037 Link between Hams – complete
SH21/040 Posters from EA for noticeboards / Facebook – complete
SH21/040 GCC Biodiversity Officer – ongoing
SH21/042 Mythe Nature Reserve adoption - ongoing

SH 22/006 Public Participation
There was no public participation.



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SH 22/007

Correspondence

Tewkesbury Town Council have been invited to join a bid for the development phase of a Landscape Recovery Bid (the largest form of ELMS project – project that are 500 – 5000ha) by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in conjunction with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (potentially Worcestershire Wildlife Trust as well). The project is based around improving and connecting wetland sites along the Severn Vale.

Public bodies can only bid by working with other landowners, so this would be an opportunity for the Town Council to potentially access this funding. The Town Council has indicated that they are interested in being involved in the development stage and wait to see if the bid has been successful.

Correspondence was also circulated from Ms Corsie regarding the BBC Sounds interview talking about the pollution in the River Severn.

SH 22/008

To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions

Mr Kerr & Mr Fielding provided an update.

GEDA have remobilised and the compound is back open. The haul road has been unwrapped and the stone is being removed. Over the next few weeks the sub soil will be levelled and the top soil replaced. There is water at the bottom end of the Ham to be drained and pumped away. A channel will need to be cut at a low spot.

Ms Corsie advised that it needs to be established as to where the water is coming from as it could be an asset. No channels must be cut without permission from the Town Council and Natural England.

Bird dissuasion measures continue and the first cut of the oats has taken place. The natural regeneration looks better than was anticipated and this bodes well for the haul road regeneration. Reinstatement will comprise of green hay, conventional hay and brush cutting seeds.

The wire and some of the intermediate posts will be removed from the edge of the working area. The posts will remain up until after the hay cut has taken place. Severn Trent commented that Mr B Perry; who is carrying out the reinstatement works, has an eye for detail.

Action: Crossing mats required for the hay making to protect the reinstatement strip. Mr Cluley and Mr Perry to liaise with Severn Trent over the locations.

There is the ongoing issue of the legacy damage outside of the pipeline replacement area, which is a separate job to the one that GEDA are carrying out. It is important that this issue is not forgotten. This includes what to do with the ruts, but also with the proliferation of docks due to the anaerobic conditions created by the leaks.



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Action: Mr Cluley and Severn Trent to work together to bring a proposal back regarding the damage.

If the docks are not dealt with, the issue will become larger and the eventual situation could be that no one wants to buy the hay from the Ham due to the amount of docks. This in turn would leave the Town Council to foot the bill for hay cutting and then the disposal of the hay.

GEDA will demobilise at the end of June and the reinstatement works will continue after this. The project will then move into the monitoring phase, for at least the next five years.

SH 22/009

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:

Later start was fully vindicated and progress is going well. Concrete has been poured for the chambers and the scaffolding is going in to drill through the wall. From June 15th Environment Agency will be able to access the watercourse.

Reinstatement should start at the end of July. Working with Severn Trent to source green hay donor sites and then monitoring will commence. This will take place on a rolling yearly basis as it is not known how the site will re-establish.

An additional access point will be required for hay making.

Action: Environment Agency to liaise with Mr Cluley and Mr Perry as to the location of the access points and width. 1st July is the first hay cutting date.

It was noted that the access gates have been left open at Healings Mill and not closed at the weekend. **Action:** Severn Trent and Environment Agency to reiterate the message to contractors onsite about the gates being secured once used.

SH 22/010

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor

The Higher Level Stewardship claim form and Minor and Temporary Adjustment form have been submitted. Any works outside of the reinstatement working strip would require permission from the Town Council and Natural England.

Restoration of grassland to date is fantastic, it would be great to have another survey, to know what is actually there. It would also help to have updated quadrant reports from inside the working zone, outside the working zone and in the worst area of docks.

Action: Request that a small strip of natural regeneration is left, to see what would happen if no green hay / seed applied. Ms Corise to speak to Mr Pullen regarding this.



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Legacy issues, particularly dock locations required a map to show what was caused by the leaks and what wasn't. The docks need to be controlled so that they are not interfering with the hay restoration project.

Soil analysis results have been received. Six samples were taken. With the exception of the north-west of the site, the phosphate indices are 4 & 5 which is far too high. Natural England would be looking for a phosphate index of 2-3 for species rich grassland restoration. This makes the aspirations of improving the grassland hard to achieve. It would be interesting to take soil samples from the donor area, to see what the phosphate levels are.

The primary cause of the increased phosphate levels will be from the flooding and water sitting on the site for a prolonged period. There were 81 cases of raw sewage being discharged into the Severn over the last year. It also shows that 26% of phosphates come from agricultural use.

SH 22/011

To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles

The hay sale will take place on Thursday 9th June 2022 in Carver Knowles car park. Caroline has given details of the plots for early and late cuts based on bird nesting locations.

A strategy is required for dealing with the docks as it is becoming a real issue.

Action: Dock management strategy to be an agenda item for next meeting.

Dock management will require liaison with Natural England. The situation is made worse by the phosphate levels, as docks thrive in high phosphate area.

SH 22/012

To receive the committee budget report

The budget report was received.

SH 22/013

To retrospectively agree the additional earmarked reserves from the hay auction for the end of the financial year 2021/22

It was RESOLVED to retrospectively agree the additional earmarked reserves from the hay auction for the end of the financial year 2021/22.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 22/014

To consider the request for an additional bench on the Severn Ham

Request has been received by the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse who are organising memorial benches across the country.

Cllr Cody advised that the Stonehills community have a location for a new bench.



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Action: Cllr Aldridge and the Assistant Town Clerk to look at the benches on the bund to see if any locations need replacing.

SH 22/015

To review the fishing rights and costs and to agree any actions

The committee agreed that they were happy with the current cost of the fishing rights of £1500 per annum.

Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association (TPAA) have permission to use one vehicle on the Ham on Sundays for those who are unable to walk to the fishing points, it was commented that there seemed to be a large number of people using it.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to check that the vehicle is only being used by those who require it.

SH 22/016

To approve payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £14,606.31.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr S Raywood.

The meeting closed at 10.53am.

Next meeting: 21st July 2022

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 21st July 2022