



**TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

*of the*

**Severn Ham Committee meeting**

Held at George Watson Memorial Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 at 9.30am

**Present:** Cllrs C Danter (Chair), C Cody, Ms C Corsie, Mr T Perry, Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, Mr S Kerr (Severn Trent), Ms M Gaden, (Fisher German), Mr P Herickx (Environment Agency), Mr P Chamley (Jackson Civil Engineering)

**In attendance:** J King (Assistant Town Clerk), one member of the public.

**SH 22/017 To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Mr Lucas, Mr Cluley, Cllr J Raywood, Cllr P Brookes, Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Gurney & Mr Fielding.

**SH 22/018 To record declarations of interest**  
Mr Cornwell-Kelly – Clerk to the Commoners  
Mr Perry – Restoration project

**SH 22/019 To consider requests for dispensations**  
None received.

**SH 22/020 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.  
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Mr Perry.

**SH 22/021 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only**  
SH19/056 Land ownership issue – registration complete  
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing  
SH21/008 Futureproofing project – Karen Colbourne – ongoing  
SH21/011 Hay spreading on bund –ongoing  
SH21/040 GCC Biodiversity Officer – ongoing  
SH21/042 Mythe Nature Reserve adoption – ongoing  
SH22/008 Crossing mats for hay making – complete  
SH22/008 ST Legacy damage proposal – ongoing – Severn Trent and Mr Cluley to bring back proposal  
SH22/009 Access point for hay making – complete  
SH22/010 Strip of natural regen left – not possible - complete  
SH22/011 Dock management strategy – on next agenda following Rootwave demonstration.  
SH22/014 Replacement benches on the Ham – no benches need replacing – referred to Cllr Cody re: Stonehills - complete



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SH22/015 Tewkesbury Popular Anglers Association – written to regarding one vehicle access – complete

The committee had previously requested that access for paddleboards and canoes be improved where possible around the Abbey Mill. The Town Council has opened up some previously hidden steps on St Mary's Road and improved the access for small craft.

### **SH 22/022 Public Participation**

A member of the public raised a question about the eel pass and whether there were any plans to make them more visually attractive.

The Environment Agency responded that there are no plans for the pass to be painted, it is black based on advice on heritage applications. The black ramp at the bottom is permanent, but the top side will just be a filter, the temporary structure that is currently there will be removed.

### **SH 22/023 Correspondence**

Tewkesbury Library are running a series of events throughout the summer including making Green Gadgets in the Town Hall garden on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August (2-4.30pm)

### **SH 22/024 To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions**

Mr Kerr provided an update. The haul road has been removed and GEDA have completed their work and demobilised from site. Green hay has been spread down the site – it now becomes a monitoring situation. Part of the fence will be removed in mid-August.

Severn Trent are prepared to pay half of the Commoners losses for their being no cattle allowed on the Ham this year.

Next steps:

Management plan for the reinstatement. **Action:** Mr Kerr to check with Mr Pullen. Legacy Issues. **Action:** Mr Kerr and Mr Cluley to discuss proposals and bring back to the committee.

### **SH 22/025 To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions**

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

There has been a slight delay with the pipe lift, additional work was required for the bottom of the ramp which was critical as eels migrate along the periphery of the bank. The work is back on track and aiming for completion at the end of August. The track will be removed at the beginning of August and then the reinstatement work will begin.



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The committee asked what kind of maintenance will be needed to maintain it. The intention is to make it as passive as possible, with little maintenance and vehicle access required approximately once every twenty years. The wall is the responsibility of the Environment Agency and ramp maintenance will be done from the river side. required to maintain it.

Blocks are required for health and safety reasons to ensure that any vehicle on the Ham cannot drive over the eel pass. There are two options – natural or uniform shape. They need to be large enough to be seen and will need to stand 50cm proud of the ground. The maintenance around the stones was discussed and the EA confirmed that they would be responsible for the maintenance and would confirm with Natural England that it did not cause any issues. The committee discussed both options and there are positive and negative options to both. Cllr Cody stated that she preferred the natural option.

It was RESOLVED to accept whichever option Natural England would prefer for the safety blocks. Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Mr Perry.

Compaction tests will take place as soon as the track is removed, which will give the benchmark to work with. Mr B Perry to cut the bund once the track has been removed.

### **SH 22/026**

#### **To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions**

Kym Jackson from Marshlands has extended an invitation to the committee to visit the site. This will be arranged for Spring 2023.

Tewkesbury Nature Reserve are working with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to develop a future plan. **Action:** Severn Ham Committee to meet with Tewkesbury Nature Reserve Committee.

Ms Corsie has attended the 'Flourishing floodplains' training course. It may be of interest to run this in Tewkesbury in conjunction with the Nature Reserve.

**Action:** Investigate options for running the course.

Porpoises were seen by the weir on the Severn Ham last week. The British Diving Marine Rescue Centre attended and the porpoises have now been spotted moving back towards Gloucester.

Landscape Recovery Scheme Application – decision due any day. Fifty one applications were received by DEFRA. The extension of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme has been confirmed until end of December 2023.



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The Committee would like to thank the secret army of litter pickers who help to keep the Severn Ham clean.

The Gloucestershire County Council 'Restoring our Rivers' report has been circulated to the Committee. **Action:** Report to be sent on to Severn Trent and Environment Agency for feedback at the next meeting.

Mr Cornwell-Kelly asked why one hay maker had not completed works by 14<sup>th</sup> July.  
Action: To be referred to Mr Cluley for follow up.

**SH 22/027**      **To receive an update from Mike Cluley, Carver Knowles**  
Items covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**SH 22/028**      **To receive the committee budget report**  
The budget report was received.

**SH 22/029**      **To consider a request for ashes to be scattered on the Severn Ham**  
Due to the Severn Ham being a SSSI, it is not possible for ashes to be scattered on the Severn Ham.

**SH 22/030**      **To agree to pollarding of the willow trees close to fishing peg 58 at a cost of £850**  
It was noted that permission from Natural England will be required before any tree work can be undertaken.

It was RESOLVED to agree the pollarding of the willow trees close to fishing peg 58 at a cost of £850. Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Danter.

**SH 22/031**      **To note the changes that were required to the tree work following the falling of the ash tree near the weir**  
It was noted that following the committee decision to appoint the first contractor to fell the tree near the weir, the quotation was withdrawn. It was therefore decided to accept the original quotation provided by Ben Perry for the felling of the tree at a cost of £3300. Subsequently the tree fell down in the storms creating a health & safety issue. The instruction was therefore made to remove the fallen tree and make the area safe. The final cost for this work was £2900.

**SH 22/032**      **To agree any actions required to facilitate the hay restoration project for this year**  
The committee discussed the hay restoration works. It was noted that the yellow rattle should be applied to the higher ground where there are less phosphate issues.

It was RESOLVED to:

Purchase 1kg of yellow rattle from Emorsgate seeds at a cost of £340

Purchase 100 bales from Kym Jackson at a cost of £550



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Approve £1650 for the work to collect bales, grass harrow, spread and roll and yellow rattle seeding.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Danter.

**SH 22/033**

**To approve payments list**

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £6,580.55.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Danter.

Post meeting note: Minor typographical error on payments list. Haywards invoice was £250.77, not £250.00. Total payments therefore approved are: £6581.32.

The meeting closed at 10.46am

Next meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes ..... 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022