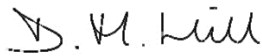


TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
19TH JANUARY 2023

To: Councillors P Aldridge (Chairman), C Danter, J Raywood, C Cody, R Gurney, Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, 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 Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury on **Thursday 19th January 2023 at 9:30 am**

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.



Debbie Hill
Town Clerk
11th January 2023

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interests
3. Dispensations
4. To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham committee meeting held on 29th September 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 agree the next steps for the Vision & Implementation Plan, as proposed by the Severn Ham working group
12. To discuss and agree any actions regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Healings Mill site
13. To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report
14. To approve payments list



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 29th September 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), Cllr J Raywood, Cllr P Brookes, Cllr Aldridge.

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

SH 22/034 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr Cluley & Cllr S Raywood.

SH 22/035 To record declarations of interest
Mr Cornwell-Kelly – Clerk to the Commons
Mr Perry – Restoration project

SH 22/036 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 22/037 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Brookes.

SH 22/038 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing
SH21/011 Hay spreading on bund –ongoing
SH21/040 GCC Biodiversity Officer – interviews have taken place - ongoing
SH21/042 Mythe Nature Reserve adoption – ongoing
SH22/008 ST Legacy damage proposal – ongoing – Severn Trent and Mr Cluley to bring back proposal
SH22/011 Dock management strategy – on next agenda following Rootwave demonstration
SH22/024 Management plan for the reinstatement – with Severn Trent
SH22/026 Severn Ham Committee to meeting Tewkesbury Nature Reserve – complete
SH22/026 Flourishing floodplains – Caroline working with Steve Pullen - complete
SH22/026 Restoring our rivers report – circulated – complete
SH22/026 Hay Making – delay after 14th July – complete



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SH 22/039 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

SH 22/040 Correspondence

An issue has been raised regarding the top surface of the bund and it has worn away which now makes it difficult for wheelchair users.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to obtain quotes for repair.

SH 22/041 To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions

Mr Kerr provided an update. GEDA have removed the working strip fence and the palisade fencing is being reinstated at the compound.

There has been an accident with a cyclist on an e-bike cycling into a strip of wire at an old crossing point. GEDA are contacting the individual directly. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the incident had been initially reported to them and the individual had been advised that bikes were prohibited on the Severn Ham..

Legacy issues – Dalcour McClaren and Mr Cluley are working together on details of what is required and the costs for the work. Currently with Mr Cluley to action.

Restoration plan – meeting to be arranged between Mr Pullen, Ms Corsie and Natural England to discuss how the restoration is going and what is required for next year.

Cathodic protection post on the top edge of the Ham requires a taller post by it to ensure it is not hit by vehicles on the Ham. New post will be 5-6ft, white with a yellow top.

SH 22/042 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:

The project has gone well and the main works are now complete. The access mats have been removed and the pass will be operational within the next month. Work continues on the reinstatement of the track where the mats have been removed.

There was a lot of historical material on the Ham which was disturbed by the subsoiling and the opportunity was taken to carry out a stone pick. The inside of the bund will be cut now that the fencing has been removed.

The stones that protect the eel pass are sufficient that they will stop any vehicles driving over it. A Cllr asked whether the holes on the eel pass were small enough for animals to get their feet stuck in them. The EA confirmed they would monitor any issues.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SH 22/043

To receive an update from Anna Tarbet regarding the Landscape Recovery Bid and to agree any actions

Anna Tarbet is the Landscape Recovery Manager for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) and she oversees the restoration projects for the trust. The Landscape Recovery Bids are a tier of ELMS, based around transformative land change for areas between 500 and 5000ha. A bid was submitted between GWT, Wildlife & Wetlands Trust, Environment Agency and eleven landowners, of which Tewkesbury Town Council is one. The area totals 1150ha. The partnership project is based on restoring resilient floodplains and the focus on species recovery is the eel. DEFRA received 50 applications and are funding 22 projects. The project is currently in the enrolment phase, which ends on 31st October 2022 and the project will then hopefully go through to the development phase, which can last up to 24 months. Next step is a meeting of all landowners and those involved in the project by the end of the enrolment phase.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to advise who should attend from TTC. TTC have offered to host the meeting if required.

It was noted that there is land along the Severn / Avon that is owned by Tewkesbury Borough Council and a question was asked as to how involved they are.

Action: Cllr Cody to follow up.

SH 22/044

To receive and agree the Vision and Implementation Plan for the Severn Ham and to agree next steps

Karen Colbourne attended the meeting to present the Vision and Implementation Plan. She outlined the proposed main changes:

The curlew are protected by the Habitat Regulations and come out as a high priority. It is proposed that the Ham is managed differently in different areas, so that there is somewhere to protect the curlew and other ground nesting birds. Focussing on restoration not conservation and getting the species back to where they were when the SSI was agreed, as it was noted that there has been a decline in species over the past ten years.

It was suggested that the southern Ham should not be cut and should be managed by extensive grazing by cattle. Cattle graze differently to sheep and the outcome is far more beneficial for ground nesting birds.

It is suggested that public access is restricted to the southern Ham between Feb – August to protect the curlew. There are currently no official footpaths in the south part of the Ham, but the right of access would require the committee to apply for special restrictions during the nesting period under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW).



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Another priority is the restoration of the SSSI vegetation. One suggestion is to try to stop the weeds from seeding in the vegetation zone. This could be done by an early top to take out the seed heads from the thistles and docks and this is commonly done on farms. This could be followed by cattle coming on to site earlier than at present and in time this would reduce the weed cover. This would not be a permanent change, but an intervention to try and restore the meadow to less than 5% weed cover. At this point it could be reviewed to see if restoring the hay cut is desirable at this point.

Monitoring and review is key to all of the work. Surveys should be standardised so that they can be repeated over the years and easily compared. This has not been the case historically.

Committee members discussed some of the issues remaining with the proposals:

- 1808 Commons Act
- Terms of reference for Friends of the Severn Ham
- A top cut being too late for hay to then be of suitable quality
- Dogs on the Ham
- Has the pipeline repair taken away water from the south – is a scrape required?

It was RESOLVED to accept the Severn Ham Vision and Implementation Plan as a working document and move forward within a working group.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to organise working group meeting.

The Committee thank Karen Colbourne for all of her work on producing the report on what is a very complex issue.

SH 22/045

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

Hay restoration project has been completed for this year. The hay sourced from Kyn Jackson has been applied to the north west corner of the Ham and there is a box of seed that has been collected, which will be used for the pollinator corridor on the bund, once it has been cut.

As part of the Heart of England in Bloom, Tewkesbury in Bloom were awarded a gold award and the Severn Ham, together with Tewkesbury Nature Reserve received an environmental award.

There have been lots of positive comments about the work that has taken place on the Ham. Germination of the green hay can be seen along the restoration plot,



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

although it is too earlier to identify the species. There is a volunteer team of litter pickers that have been working on the Ham where the bund area has been cut back.

SH 22/046 To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report
The budget report and earmarked reserve report was received.

SH 22/047 To consider and agree the draft budget for 2023/24
It was RESOLVED to accept the draft budget for 2023/24 as outlined in the agenda pack. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 22/048 To approve payments list
There was no payments list.

The meeting closed at 10.47

Next meeting: 19th January 2022

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 19th January 2022

DRAFT

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 09/01/2023

Month No: 9

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
500 Severn Ham						
1620 Hay Auction	3,701	190	(3,511)			
1630 Basic Payment Scheme	11,762	11,500	(262)			
1640 Wayleaves	378	390	12			
1700 Fishing Rights	1,800	1,500	(300)			
1710 HLS Payment	22,066	22,248	183			
Severn Ham :- Income	39,706	35,828	(3,878)			0
4450 Maintenance	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	
4550 Water	63	260	197		197	
4850 Commoners Grazing Compensation	0	4,500	4,500		4,500	
4855 Hay Sowing Project	2,200	5,000	2,800		2,800	
4860 Volunteers (Rec & Prom)	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	
4865 Auction Fees	500	477	(23)		(23)	
4870 Weeding	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	
4875 Tree Conservation	3,750	3,000	(750)		(750)	
4880 Ancillary Management	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	
4885 Nesting Project	24	1,500	1,476		1,476	
4890 Carver Knowles	0	2,388	2,388		2,388	
4895 Cross Compliance Consultant	475	530	55		55	
4900 Conservation Advisor	3,750	5,571	1,821		1,821	
4905 Footpath Repairs	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	
4910 Reinstatement Expenditure	161	0	(161)	359	(520)	
Severn Ham :- Indirect Expenditure	10,923	35,226	24,303	359	23,944	0
Net Income over Expenditure	28,783	602	(28,181)			
Grand Totals:- Income	39,706	35,828	(3,878)			
Expenditure	10,923	35,226	24,303	359	23,944	
Net Income over Expenditure	28,783	602	(28,181)			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	28,783					

Earmarked Reserves

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR B&M 64 BS Maintenance	6,709.00	0.00	6,709.00
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 EMR B&M Moorings Maintenance	335.00	-335.00	0.00
324 EMR E&A Noticeboards	1,447.00		1,447.00
325 EMR E&A Playground Projects	12,604.00		12,604.00
326 EMR E&A Youth	4,105.00		4,105.00
327 EMR FIN Asset Management Proj	3,821.00		3,821.00
328 EMR B&M War Memorial	5,857.73		5,857.73
329 EMR SH Severn Ham	6,140.00		6,140.00
330 EMR E&A CCTV	2,500.00		2,500.00
331 EMR E&A Tree Maintenance	5,150.00		5,150.00
332 EMR E&A Street Furniture	2,300.00		2,300.00
333 EMR E&A Toilet Block Project	7,902.00	-5,834.00	2,068.00
334 EMR E&A Gloucester Road Maint.	0.00		0.00
335 EMR E&A Bus Shelters	2,640.00		2,640.00
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	9,087.00		9,087.00
340 EMR FIN Elections	4,000.00		4,000.00
341 EMR FIN Tourism & Marketing	1,474.00		1,474.00
342 EMR FIN Newsletter	1,500.00		1,500.00
343 EMR SH Weeding	7,500.00		7,500.00
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	1,306.00		1,306.00
348 EMR PLA Outreach Sessions	271.00		271.00
349 EMR B&M Moorings Projects	6,363.00		6,363.00
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 FIN Insurance	1,556.00	-1,556.00	0.00
353 EMR FIN Shop Windows Project	3,290.02	-3,290.02	0.00
354 EMR B&M TH Maintenance	9,761.00		9,761.00
355 EMR B&M WH Projects	10,040.00		10,040.00
356 EMR B&M WH Bar Equipment	1,619.00		1,619.00
357 EMR B&M 64 Roof Project	0.00		0.00
358 EMR SH Mythe Nature Reserve	5,000.00		5,000.00
359 EMR PLA Community Devel Planni	1,000.00		1,000.00
360 EMR B&M TH Projects	12,100.00		12,100.00
361 EMR FIN Community Grants	1,822.00	-1,822.00	0.00
362 EMR FIN Tewkes Live Music Fest	9,892.50	-9,892.50	0.00
363 EMR B&M WH Doors & Floors Proj	3,402.00	-3,402.00	0.00
364 EMR B&M 64 BS Fundraising Proj	6,788.00	-6,788.00	0.00
	222,744.48	-32,919.52	189,824.96

Vision & Implementation Plan (VIP) working group recommendations

That the two highest priority targets from the VIP are agreed as target 4 'To improve conditions for curlew and other ground nesting birds' and target 5 'Restore the SSSI vegetation and improve the hay and grazing'

That the Ham be divided in two as per Map 2 of the VIP to prioritise curlew and ground nesting birds in the south and vegetation in the north.

Proposed actions from VIP for southern end in first two years

- Monitor wetness of the area for two years – if too dry create a scrape
- Limit access to the southern end of the Ham for walkers
- Remove footpath signage at the Abbey Mill that points south
- Publicise dog control requirements under CRoW Act
- Establish a 'Friends of the Severn Ham' group
- Work with Severn Trent / WWT for monitoring curlew

Proposed actions from VIP for northern end in first two years

- Collate information about soils, vegetation and livestock.
- Lobby EA & ST re: water quality issues
- Look to identify sustainable grazing options
- Graze with no more than 50 cattle (noted that the Act requires grazing with sheep at the same time as the cattle)
- Specify vehicle access routes
- Experiment with RootWave technology. It is felt that this is the only option available at present to reduce the docks. The other options of early topping and early grazing are at odds with the needs of the curlew.
- If soils are disturbed for non-conservation work by utilities, compensation to be sought for restoration over 30 years.
- Survey the marginal scrub and produce a management plan to promote Greater Dodder and protected species.

Further recommendations

There is a feeling that the public see the Ham as a piece of open ground which is used for nothing. Questions are raised on why don't we have the Medieval Fair or Big Weekend on the Ham?

Need to start at the beginning with what the Ham is about, why there are restrictions and what we are doing behind the scenes to protect it. There is a lack of understanding and awareness.

Needs a multi-faceted approach, using all of our channels.