



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 19th January 2023 at 9.30am

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), C Cody, Ms C Corsie, Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, Cllr J Raywood, Cllr P Brookes.

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

Cllr Brookes took the Chair.

SH 22/049 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr Cluley.

Cllr Aldridge took the Chair.

SH 22/050 To record declarations of interest
Mr Cornwell-Kelly – Clerk to the Commoners

SH 22/051 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 22/052 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2022
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2022. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr P Brookes.

SH 22/053 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing. Ms Corsie & the Assistant Town Clerk attended the kick off meeting for the Eelscape project. Next step is the habitat survey and permission has been given for that to take place.
SH21/011 Hay spreading on bund – complete
SH21/040 GCC Biodiversity Officer – has now been appointed - complete.
SH21/042 Mythe Nature Reserve adoption – ongoing
SH22/008 ST Legacy damage proposal – ongoing
SH22/011 Dock management strategy – Natural England have confirmed that in principle a derogation would be given for using the technology – back with Severn Trent - ongoing
SH22/024 Management plan for the reinstatement – complete
SH22/040 Bund repairs – waiting on third quotation
SH22/044 Vision and Implementation Working Group Meeting to organise – complete.



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SH 22/054

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

SH 22/055

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

SH 22/056

To receive an update from Severn Trent (ST) and agree any actions

A written report was received from Stuart Kerr at ST. GEDA have undertaken minimal works since the last committee meeting and the removal of all fencing and reinstatement of the palisade fencing to the rear of the compound was completed by the end of September 2022.

Steve Pullan (ST Ecologist), had a site meeting with Natural England, Caroline Corsie and the Assistant Town Clerk in November to discuss the way forwards in terms of the restoration plan for 2023. It was agreed that the following restoration activities are required:

- 2 day botanical detailed survey of the Ham on a paired sample base between disturbed and non-disturbed Ham.
- Green hay collection and spreading on the Ham from the previous donor site at Coombe Hill.
- Weed control.

SH 22/057

To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions

The EA continue to monitor the site as per previous communications. The site is obviously under water at present and the EA plan to attend the next meeting to provide the first update on the reinstatement.

SH 22/058

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

Ms Corsie provided the following update:

- Attended the Eelscape kick off meeting. Interviews for the Stakeholder Liaison Officer are currently taking place, this post is fundamental to project. Landscape Recovery Projects are dependent on finding private finance as part of the process and there may be suitable local projects in Tewkesbury.
- Finance is available from the Severn Trent Community Fund, potentially to do some community work with plug plants and key species.
- How do we maintain pressure on improving water quality in the rivers? What improvements can we see and what should be able to see in the next year? The County based 'Restoring the Rivers' group is due to meet again this month and are looking for suitable locations for areas in the district for monitoring. The Ham would be ideal, as it is the confluence of the Avon and Severn. Need to identify potential locations – initial suggestion (what three words: listen: snuggle: bulk)

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to investigate locations.



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- Floating pennywort continues to be an issue along the Avon and this is now being carried down the Severn due to the flood conditions. The Town Clerk has handed this back over to the Avon Navigation Trust. The committee discussed whether the overhanging willows are causing an issue and causing the pennywort to get caught and build up, and then whose responsibility this is.
- Sheep are eroding the area around the manhole cover at the southern end of the pipeline replacement. The issue was raised in the meeting with Steve Pullen and ST to come back with a suitable solution.
- Bird feeding continues on the Ham.
- The committee wished to thank the litter pickers who have been out clearing the site again, it is greatly appreciated.
- The otter has been spotted by the weir again. It has also been caught on camera eating koi carp in the Tewkesbury Park area!
- Eel pass – **Action:** question for the EA – is there any monitoring data for the eel pass? Is it working?

SH 22/059 To agree the next steps for the Vision and Implementation Plan, as proposed by the Severn Ham working group

It was RESOLVED to agree the next steps for the Vision and Implementation Plan as proposed by the Severn Ham Working Group.

Proposed by Cllr Cody and seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

Mr Cornwell-Kelly abstained.

SH 22/060 To discuss and agree any actions regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Healings Mill site

A preapplication planning meeting was recently held for Councillors and was also attended by Ms Corsie (as the Town Council's Conservation Advisor).

The committee discussed the next steps regarding staying engaged with the process and ensuring that all issues are covered from a conservation point of view.

The committee request that Mr Cornwell-Kelly is invited to any future meetings to represent the Commoners in future discussions, particularly regarding access and grazing.

SH 22/061 To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report

The budget report and earmarked reserve report was received.

SH 22/062 To approve payments list

The payments list totalling £9539.49 was approved.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

The meeting closed at 11am.



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Next meeting: 16th March 2023

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 16th March 2023