



**TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

*of the*

**Severn Ham Committee meeting**

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 9.30am

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

**In attendance:** J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

- SH 22/063 To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr S Raywood.
- SH 22/064 To record declarations of interest**  
Mr Cornwell-Kelly – Clerk to the Commoners
- SH 22/065 To consider requests for dispensations**  
None received.
- SH 22/066 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.  
Proposed by Cllr Brookes, seconded by Cllr Cody.
- SH 22/067 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only**  
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing.  
SH21/042 Mythe Nature Reserve adoption – ongoing, with GWT legal team  
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 Rootwave technology — ongoing  
SH22/058 Restoring the rivers – monitoring locations given for the project - complete  
SH22/058 Eel Pass – monitoring data not yet available - ongoing
- SH 22/068 Public Participation**  
There was no public participation.
- SH 22/069 Correspondence**  
There was no correspondence.
- SH 22/070 To receive an update from Severn Trent (ST) and agree any actions**  
A written report was received from Severn Trent.



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The Committee discussed the proposed Rootwave solution for the docks, both on the restoration strip and on the legacy areas. It was felt that Severn Trent should be responsible for fixing this, as the prevalence of the docks is due to the leaks.

Request should be made to Severn Trent to purchase the Rootwave machine and generator and that there should be a mitigation for a number of years (5 was suggested to be able to see the impact) to get the issue under control.

The issue is that this will be one of the biggest sites the technology has been trialled on. Therefore information about how much ground can be covered, how long it will take, how effective it will be is scarce, as well as requiring suitable weather conditions to get on the Ham. Issues regarding storage and access were also raised, including whether a joint facility with the Borough Council could be found to store commonly used equipment.

It was suggested that the docks are mapped, so that progress can be seen across the plots. (10, docks are primary plant – 0, no docks)

Next steps are to formulate plan and costs as to how the work would be implemented and to check details and costs for depreciation of the machinery and servicing. To also investigate moving the equipment and safe storage.

It was RESOLVED that authority be delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk to investigate, build a plan and make a proposal to Severn Trent.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

Committee members agreed that the legacy issues should be progressed. Caroline and Mike Cluley to talk about the current proposal and whether it is appropriate to disturb the ground further. It was suggested that a trial area might be the most effective way forward.

**SH 22/071 To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions**

Paul Herickx from the Environment Agency provided the update.

The monitoring equipment is not yet in place as there have been issues on other sites regarding vandalism and they want to ensure that the equipment when installed is safe and secure. Overall the EA are happy with the construction of the pass, there are a few small adjustments to make to the entrance to stop the reeds getting in, but these are minor. Paul is working with the Catchment Co-ordinator on further environment improvements in the vicinity.

The first walk to assess the reinstated strip will take place on w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was looking a little bit patchy, but this is to be expected.

**SH 22/072 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions**

Ms Corsie provided the following update:

- Litter pickers are out on the Ham and doing a great job.



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- The first curlew have been heard and have been on the site for just over a week, the flooding can unfortunately confuse them. There are 10-12 pairs of skylark who are also back on the site.
- The current flooding quite clearly shows the points where the water sites and the areas in the north east corner that have the lower phosphate levels as they don't flood all the time.

It was RESOLVED to approve £2000 plus spreading costs for green hay this year. Green hay to come from Coombe Hill / Kym Jackson.  
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Brookes.

Visit to Kym Jackson's at Coombe Hill to be arranged in the Spring to see what another floodplain meadow looks like in full flower.

Initial monitoring on the restoration strips indicates that they are coming back well, despite the current wet and cold and the progress is in the right direction.

Without cattle on site for the last two years, the scrub land on the edge of the Ham has not been impacted as it should have been, next step would be to procure a scrub survey and management plan.

It was RESOLVED to earmark £3900 from 500/4850 Commoners' Grazing Compensation to procure a scrub survey and start the required scrub works.  
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Cody.

**SH 22/073**

**To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk and agree any actions including**

- i. HLS Extension and Natural England – five year extension to the HLS has been granted and permission given by Natural England. Just waiting on official notification.
- ii. Signage for the Severn Ham – Suggestions for the signs to request that walkers do not use the lower Ham were discussed. Alternative route maps to be placed in the noticeboards and on Facebook.
- iii. Water monitoring equipment – will be installed by Severn Trent south of the Swilgate joining the Avon.
- iv. Severn Ham volunteer group – Nine individuals are helping with the curlew monitoring.

**SH 22/074**

**To consider and accept a quote for the refurbishment of the bund**

The committee received the two quotes that had been received for the refurbishment of the bund. A number of other companies had been approached but only two responded with a quotation. It was suggested that GEDA be approached to quote for the work.





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500/4450	Maintenance	£1500
500/4860	Volunteers	£1500
500/4890	Carver Knowles	£2388

To earmark £2500 from 500/4870 Weeding to EMR 343 SH Weeding.  
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

**SH 22/078 To consider and recommend a format for the future of the Severn Ham Committee**

The future format of the committee was discussed.

It was RESOLVED that the Environment Agency should be offered the one vacant seat left by Jan Lucas.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

Paul Herickx advised that this would likely be filled by Karen Andrew who is the Severn Vale Catchment Co-ordinator. She is also the Eelscape lead for the Environment Agency.

It was suggested that as the Friends of the Severn Ham Group develops, it may be appropriate for there to be a representative from the group on the Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.55am

Next meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 9.30am

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes ..... 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023