



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 18th September 2023 at 9.30am

Present: Cllrs P Brookes (Chair), J Baddams, C Cody, C Danter, Ms C Corsie, Mr T Perry, Mrs K Andrews, Mr M Cornwall-Kelly.

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

- SH 23/015 To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr J Raywood (work) & Cllr E Ash (personal)
- SH 23/016 To record declarations of interest**
Mr T Perry declared an interest to works being carried out on the Ham by Mr B Perry
Mr M Cornwall-Kelly – Clerk to the Commoners
- SH 23/017 To consider requests for dispensations**
None received.
- SH 23/018 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2023**
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2023.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Danter.
- SH 23/019 Public Participation**
There was no public participation.
- SH 23/020 Correspondence**
Correspondence was received from the Corbally Group (owners of Healings Mill) regarding the installation of CCTV on the site to prevent further vandalism. The committee discussed the proposal and made suggestions as to how it could work efficiently.
- SH 23/021 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.
SH22/058 Eel Pass monitoring details – ongoing.
SH22/070 Legacy proposal – ready to circulate to the committee.
SH23/010 Botanical report was circulated – complete.
SH23/11 Sustainable Farming Incentive information from Caroline.
SH23/11 Curlew – report from Mike Smart – complete.



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SH 23/022 To receive an update from Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association and agree any actions

A member of TPAA was welcomed to the meeting. Discussions were had surrounding access and the transporting of kit and individuals on the Ham and encouraging those who were able to, to walk. It was confirmed that access was restricted to the path and that two trips were completed each weekend to the twenty pegs below the weir.

The information from Natural England regarding access and maintenance was shared with the Angling Association, together with the ORNEC requirements that apply to the site. Maintenance of 1m wide access paths and the fishing pegs are allowed but any pruning of trees would require assent. Member of the TPAA will be advised accordingly.

The Angling Association fish the Severn from June to mid-October. There are summers where they do not fish the Severn due to the tide times.

The issue of the invasive floating pennywort in the Avon was raised. The committee agreed that it was a problem, but it should not be removed on to the Severn Ham.

SH 23/023 To receive an update from Severn Trent (ST) and agree any actions

No report received.

SH 23/024 To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions

Minor maintenance is required but it won't involve any disruption to the Ham. It is currently waiting on designs from their contractors.

Green hay from Coombe Hill was applied to the restoration strip last week at the same time as it was applied to the Severn Trent restoration strip.

Results from the shad monitoring show that fish are getting through, but not as optimally as they could at the Upper Lode weir. Funding has been secured to look at options for improving this and ensuring that more salmon and shad can go further up the river to spawn.

SH 23/025 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions

Ms Corsie provided the following update:

Ben Perry is currently waiting for a weather window in order to put down the bales from Kym Jackson on our restoration plots. There are ten additional bales and a box of seed to be able to distribute on the bund to improve the pollinator corridor, as was the case last year.



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The floating pennywort is an ongoing issue, as it is an invasive species. There are small patches of Himalayan balsam, but no giant hogweed or Japanese knotweed on the site.

The flourishing floodplains project run by WWT has produced a number of floodplain specific plug plants, which we could trial; depending on availability, to see if this method is more successful than that of the hay restoration project. The WWT is happy to offer a visit to see the work that they have been carrying out.

It was RESOLVED to order 126 plug plants at a cost of £88.20.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Baddams.

Sheep are due to start grazing the Ham on 19th September. It is thought that the trough might have a small leak. **Action:** To investigate the leak.

The Sustainable Farming Initiative details have been delayed again. It is hoped that 60,000 farmers will engage with the scheme. It is not yet relevant to the Severn Ham but it may be when the details on common land are released next year.

SH 23/026

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

- i. Hay making – Summer 2023 was a particularly wet summer and hay cutting was delayed until into August, as there was no alternative. The Town Council bought out an additional month of the grazing rights at a cost of £100 to compensate the grazier.
- ii. Monitoring on the Severn Ham / Friends of the Severn Ham.
Thank you to all those that assisted with the curlew monitoring. Next request will be livestock monitoring. **Action:** Circulate grazier's details to the group for direct reporting.
- iii. Rootwave / Legacy Issues – meeting with Tewkesbury Borough Council in July, potential storage issue sorted, proposal has been checked by Mike Cluley and will now be circulated to the committee and Severn Trent.
- iv. Nesting project – It would be cost effective to put up any nesting boxes whilst the tree works take place. Owl boxes are approximately £150 each. Smaller bird boxes for nuthatch and long tailed tit would also be beneficial. Volunteers would be needed for maintenance in December / January each year. PPNP make bird boxes and we should purchase from them where possible. A larger bird feeder could also be used on the bund to support larger numbers of birds during the winter.

It was RESOLVED to approve up to £1000 to provide appropriate bird boxes on the Severn Ham and bird feed for the winter. Assistant Town Clerk to liaise with Ms Corsie regarding locations and optimum numbers.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Cody.



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- v. Clarity on the scrub programme – Dead tree work is more critical from a health and safety point of view and it will also include some scrub works. A quote has been received from Matt Hale which is within the amount previously approved. Assent from Natural England to be applied for.

The Committee also noted the work programme.

SH 23/027

To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report

The reports were received. The Assistant Town Clerk outlined the budget position and that a transfer from earmarked reserves will happen in December to cover the overspend on the footpath repairs.

SH 23/028

To approve the payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £7084.52.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Baddams.

The meeting closed at 10.40am.

Next meeting: Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 10am. Mayors Parlour

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes