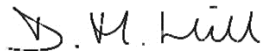


**TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
18TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

To: Councillors P Brookes (Chair), C Danter, J Raywood, C Cody, J Baddams, E Ash, Mr M Cornwell-Kelly, Mrs K Andrews, 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 **Monday 18th September 2023 at 9:30 am**

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.



Debbie Hill
Town Clerk
11th September 2023

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interests
3. Dispensations
4. To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham committee meeting held on 26th June 2023
5. 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.)*
6. Correspondence
7. Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
8. To receive an update from Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association and agree any actions
9. To receive an update from Severn Trent and agree any actions
10. To receive an update from the Environment Agency and agree any actions
11. To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Adviser and agree any actions.
12. To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk and agree any actions including:
 - i. Hay making – Summer 2023
 - ii. Monitoring on the Severn Ham / Friends of the Severn Ham
 - iii. Rootwave / Legacy Issues
13. To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report
14. To approve the payments list



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 16th March 2023 at 9.30am

Present: Cllrs P Brookes (Chair), E Ash, J Baddams, C Cody, C Danter, P Jones, Ms C Corsie, Mr Perry.

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk) & four members of the public.

SH 23/001 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr J Raywood & Mrs K Andrews.

SH 23/002 To record declarations of interest
None received.

SH 23/003 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 23/004 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2023
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2023.
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 23/005 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 – closed as replaced with SH22/070.
SH22/011 Dock management strategy – closed as replaced with SH22/070.
SH22/058 Eel Pass – ongoing.
SH22/070 Legacy proposal – ongoing – issues regarding logistics & storage

SH 23/006 Public Participation
Mr Clements from English Holiday Cruises (EHC) presented. Since 1999 the company has been bringing their river cruise hotel boat to Tewkesbury. It carries 22 passengers. They have been unable to moor this season on the Ham and had been unable to do so whilst the Severn Trent works were taking place. Mr Clements stated that there were no late-night parties, they would use existing paths and the boat is silent overnight as it uses battery power. EHC are happy to engage with any restrictions and are waiting to post their 2024 itineraries based on the outcome of this meeting.

SH 23/007 To consider a request for the reinstatement of a mooring on the Severn Ham
Cllrs asked the following questions to Mr Clements:



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Q – Are there restrictions on dogs?

A – No dogs are allowed on the cruises.

Q – Does allowing one boat to moor not set a precedent for others?

A – The mooring was put in by EHC and is only suitable for a boat of our size. EHC could prevent other people from using it.

Q – What precautions are taken against fuel spills?

A – Vessel is registered with Marine Coastguard agency. Inspections for boats over 12 passengers and 24m include two dry dock inspections every five years and a yearly visit for in water inspections. There is also a personal liability of individuals on board.

Q – Have you spoken to Natural England?

A – No EHC have not spoken to Natural England.

Q – What benefit is there to the Ham?

A – There is a benefit to Tewkesbury in terms of tourism. Passengers took part in species monitoring in 2015 for kingfishers. They could do this for other species.

Q – Have you done an environmental impact survey, so that there is a positive impact to your visits to the Ham? A – No.

It was noted that the Severn Trent works blocked the path that meant this mooring could not be used. EHC were using an alternative mooring in Tewkesbury, but the new owner wants money up front for a whole season (£4000) without any binding legal agreement.

As the Ham is a SSSI there is a legal obligation to gain permission from Natural England before using the mooring. Not obtaining this risks the Higher Level Stewardship and opens the Town Council up to a fine for non-compliance. Any application to Natural England has to be made by the land owner (the Town Council) and can take up to 56 days to be approved.

Concerns were raised about the decline in swans in Tewkesbury and the Avon in general. Much of this is due to disturbance and loss of nesting sites. There is a nesting site 20ft from the proposed mooring site. Tewkesbury in danger of losing the swans and bird flu is also having an enormous impact. Concern was also raised about the floating pennywort and potentially moving it up and down the Avon.

Mr Clements stated that an alternative site previously suggested by the committee near Healings Mill would require dredging and that permissions would be required from the Environment Agency. There are also restrictions on the times within which dredging may be done and EHC agree that there are better solutions.

Q - How much bank clearing would need to be done either side of the moorings?

A – It is a 28m long boat. The platform is designed so that no bank clearing is required.



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A Cllr noted that it would be difficult to get the vessel close into the mooring without some pruning taking place.

The committee discussed the bank erosion in Upton. EHC stated that this is most likely the result of high river flow in winter, rather than the boat mooring there.

Committee members were asked if they wished to reconsider the rejection of the mooring request. Committee members indicated by a show of hands that they did not wish to reconsider the request. The original resolution stands.

SH 23/008

Correspondence

Several items of correspondence were received regarding the middle of the Ham being wet and whether it could have a bridge or different surface.

SH 23/009

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

None received.

SH 23/010

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

Paul Herickx from the Environment Agency provided the update.

There have been two botanical surveys on the reinstatement strip, at the beginning of May and early June. It took the form of a quadrat survey and comparison to the strip next to the reinstatement strip.

Initial reports are positive at such an early stage in the reinstatement. Narrow leaf water dropwort is present along the site, as is yellow rattle. Aftermath grazing will help with the reinstatement. Greater Burnett was not reported as being present and an identified action is that seed or green hay should be considered.

Regeneration can take decades, but using targeted seeds can speed this up. The sward will be reassessed in late summer and the merits for oversowing considered. Green hay would also be beneficial and this should be applied after the annual hay cut.

Ms Corsie advised that Severn Trent are planning to apply green hay at the end of July. It is an early ripening year, so the intention is to bring forward the green hay to July 17th in order to get the later flowering species.

Action: Full botanical report to be circulated to committee members.

Eel pass – ad hoc monitoring is happening through the fisheries team and the EA are looking at a system that will do it automatically. There was an issue with high tides and also with protecting the inlet from larger debris. This work will take place towards the end of the summer when the water levels are low. No heavy machinery will be required, at most it will be a 4x4 with a trailer.



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SH 23/011 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions

Ms Corsie provided the following update:

Initial examination of both reinstatement strips is that they are doing well for the first year of growth, but there is a lot of grass within it. If seed is being used, the question is whether grass needs to be included in the mix. The annuals have had a short-term benefit in terms of feed for the birds. The Severn Trent reinstatement strip is particularly thick with grass and would benefit from yellow rattle.

The weather is a concern for aftermath grazing and the weather will also determine whether the site is able to carry the weight of vehicles and not cause additional compaction.

The Town Council will carry out green hay spreading this year. The hay is coming from Marshlands and the work will be carried out by Mr B Perry.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive schemes were launched last week. They don't immediately offer any opportunities for the Severn Ham. **Action:** Ms Corsie to circulate the details of what is on offer to the farming community.

Curlew – have been very quiet and there are few signs that they are still on the Ham.

Action: What is the action plan for the curlew?

SH 23/012 To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk and agree any actions including

- i. Monitoring on the Severn Ham / Friends of the Severn Ham.
Thanks were given to the Friends of the Severn Ham for their help in monitoring the curlew. Next steps to ask for assistance monitoring livestock.
- ii. Path repairs – have been completed, they will take a little time to bed in, due to the nature of the self-bonding gravel.
- iii. Rootwave / Legacy Issues – meeting with Tewkesbury Borough Council in July.
- iv. Anglers involvement in the committee – **Action:** Agenda item to include feedback and discussions with the anglers to be added twice a year (September 2023 and March 2024)
- v. Next meeting dates – Monday 18th Sept, Wednesday 20th December, Wednesday 13th March.
- vi. Healings Mill – issues regarding access being blocked with a cherry picker, and owners rescinding storage issues on site for the Town Council, due to conflict with Tewkesbury Borough Council.



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The Committee also noted the work programme and the completion of the bund repairs.

SH 23/013 To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report
The reports were received. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the compensation from Severn Trent for the pipeline replacement had been received and after payment of the land agent fees, totals £24,553.

SH 23/014 To approve the payments list
It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £90,870.27.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Baddams.

The meeting closed at 10.52am.

Next meeting: Monday 18th September 2023.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes

DRAFT

Information from Natural England regarding access and maintenance for the fishing club on the Severn Ham

- Cutting existing paths to a meter wide to maintain access would be fine as long as this is in agreement with the council and their management of the meadow. Creation of any new paths would require consent from Natural England (NE).
- Routine maintenance of the pegs will be fine but if any new pegs need to be installed, this will likely require consent.
- Any vegetation removal that is not part of the agreed maintenance for the one meter path such as tree felling, scrub management, coppicing, will require consent. Due to triggering the following ORNCE 11: The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, moss, lichen or turf.
- Any vegetation work along the bank side would also require consent especially if it may affect the structure of the bank side and its vegetation. The EA may also need to be notified
- Any digging or disturbance of the ground would require consent due to triggering the ORNEC 20: Extraction of minerals, including topsoil and subsoil.
- The use of any vehicles on the SSSI will likely trigger the ORNEC 26: Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
- Any changes to the current fishing agreement may trigger ORNEC 16A: changes in freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Severn Ham, Tewkesbury

OLD1002725

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	Changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3	The introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4	Changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10	The killing or removal of any wild animal*, other than pest control.
11	The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, moss, lichen or turf.
12	The introduction of tree and/or woodland management+ and changes in tree and/or woodland management+.
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b	Modification of the structure of watercourses (eg rivers), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction through boreholes).
15	Infilling of ditches or pools.
16a	The introduction of freshwater fishery production and/or management and changes in freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.
20	Extraction of minerals, including topsoil and subsoil.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
26	Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage the meadow habitat.
28	Introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

+ including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading August 2023

Month No: 5

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	3,974	190	(3,784)			
1630 Basic Payment Scheme	0	9,420	9,420			
1640 Wayleaves	0	390	390			
1700 Fishing Rights	0	1,500	1,500			
1710 HLS Payment	0	22,248	22,248			
1715 Reinstatement Compensation	34,175	0	(34,175)			
Severn Ham :- Income	38,149	33,748	(4,401)			0
4450 Maintenance	176	1,500	1,324		1,324	
4550 Water	23	265	242		242	
4850 Commoners Grazing Compensation	0	3,500	3,500		3,500	
4855 Hay Sowing Project	0	4,750	4,750		4,750	
4860 Volunteers (Rec & Prom)	28	1,500	1,472		1,472	
4865 Auction Fees	500	500	0		0	
4870 Weeding	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	
4875 Tree Conservation	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	
4880 Ancillary Management	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	
4885 Nesting Project	155	1,500	1,345		1,345	
4890 Carver Knowles	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	
4895 Cross Compliance Consultant	0	530	530		530	
4900 Conservation Advisor	2,500	5,571	3,071		3,071	
4905 Footpath Repairs	9,985	2,500	(7,485)		(7,485)	
4910 Reinstatement Expenditure	9,282	0	(9,282)		(9,282)	
Severn Ham :- Indirect Expenditure	22,650	33,616	10,966	0	10,966	0
Net Income over Expenditure	15,500	132	(15,368)			
Grand Totals:- Income	38,149	33,748	(4,401)			
Expenditure	22,650	33,616	10,966	0	10,966	
Net Income over Expenditure	15,500	132	(15,368)			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	15,500					

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR B&M 64 BS Maintenance	20,264.00		20,264.00
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	0.00		0.00
324 EMR E&A Noticeboards & Swapbox	1,708.00		1,708.00
325 EMR E&A Playground Projects	20,105.00		20,105.00
326 EMR E&A Youth	4,105.00		4,105.00
327 EMR FIN Asset Management Proj	0.00		0.00
328 EMR B&M War Memorial	6,875.73		6,875.73
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	5,650.00		5,650.00
332 EMR E&A Street Furniture	3,050.00		3,050.00
333 EMR E&A Toilet Block Project	3,108.00		3,108.00
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	5,237.00		5,237.00
339 EMR FIN Legal	14,087.00		14,087.00
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	10,000.00		10,000.00
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 Footpath Repairs	10,738.00		10,738.00
347 EMR PLA Comm. & Display	1,306.00	-1,306.00	0.00
348 EMR PLA Outreach Sessions	0.00		0.00
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	0.00		0.00
353 EMR FIN Shop Windows Project	0.00		0.00
354 EMR B&M TH Maintenance	10,129.00		10,129.00
355 EMR B&M WH Projects	19,319.00		19,319.00
356 EMR B&M WH Bar Equipment	1,914.00		1,914.00
357 EMR B&M 64 BS Projects	11,219.00		11,219.00
358 EMR SH Mythe Nature Reserve	5,000.00		5,000.00
359 EMR PLA Community Devel Planni	2,500.00		2,500.00
360 EMR B&M TH Projects	26,627.00		26,627.00
361 EMR FIN Community Grants	622.00		622.00
362 EMR FIN Tewkes Live Music Fest	0.00		0.00
363 EMR B&M WH Maintenance	307.00		307.00
364 EMR B&M 64 BS Fundraising Proj	720.00		720.00
365 EMR FIN Events and Services	482.00		482.00
366 EMR B&M TH Equipment	870.00		870.00
367 EMR E&A Toilet Block Utilities	1,429.00		1,429.00
368 EMR E&A VAS Repairs	1,655.00		1,655.00
369 EMR STA Training	2,087.00		2,087.00

Severn Ham Work Programme		
Action	Status	Comments
Adoption of the Mythe Nature Reserve	Open	With GWT legal team since Autumn 2022
ELMS Eelscape Project	Open	In development phase for two years. Baseline survey for flora / fauna - Summer 2023. Soil sampling taking place Autumn 2023
Repairs to the bund (footpath) on the Ham	Closed	Commencing 19th June 2023
Scrub management	Open	Met with Matt Hale & Caroline Corsie - Summer 2023 to assess actions required. Awaiting quote.
Visit to Coombe Hill donor hay sites	Closed	Completed 19th June 2023
Green hay spreading on restoration plots	Open	Cost approved in March 2023, green hay to come from Kym Jackson
New signage re: closing lower end of the Ham	Closed	Issue with middle being wet this year - monitor next year. Signage ready to go.
Actions from Vision & Implementation Plan	Open	Actions completed - footpath sign to south removed. Monitoring wetness of the southern end of the Ham. Unusually wet in the centre - Spring 2023. Friends of Severn Ham group started. Grazing with cattle and sheep agreed for 2023.
Cross compliance monitoring meeting - annual requirement	Open	Autumn 2023
Severn Trent Works		
Action	Status	Comments
Legacy dock issue	Open	Rootwave approved as solution by Natural England as part of HLS extension. Logistical and storage issues are current delay. TBC have provisionally agreed storage.
Repairs to the bund (footpath) on the Ham	Open	
Water monitoring equipment installed	Open	Installation complete - committee interested in findings
Legacy issue of rutting in the middle of the Ham	Open	
EA Works		
Action	Status	Comments
Reinstatement of working strip	Open	First review due 5th May 2023
Monitoring of the success of the eel pass	Open	Too early for data - ongoing