



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the
Severn Ham Committee meeting
Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 13th March 2024 at 10.00am

Present: Cllrs P Brookes (Chair), C Cody, J Raywood, Ms C Corsie, Mrs Andrews, Mr Perry

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk), Mr Baggs (Clerk to the Commoners)

The Chair extended his thanks to Mr Cornwell-Kelly who has had to step down from being Clerk to the Commons. His input has been invaluable over the last few years.

SH 23/047 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Danter.

SH 23/048 To record declarations of interest
Mr Baggs – Clerk to the Commoners
Mr Perry – Hay spreading and application

SH 23/049 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 23/050 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2023
Subject to the removal of the words 'At Twyning' from item SH23/036
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2023. Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 23/051 Public Participation
There was no public participation.

SH 23/052 Correspondence
Two items of correspondence were received:
A question was raised as to whether any assistance could be given to nesting swans.
Action: Add to next agenda.

A member of the public noted the decline of flora and fauna on the Ham over the years and was pleased to note that the committee is supporting testing the water and Safe Avon.

SH 23/053 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing.
SH22/058 Eel Pass monitoring details – ongoing.
SH22/070 Legacy proposal – circulated – now with Severn Trent.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SH23/025 Plug plant project – assent given – ongoing.
SH23/026 Bird boxes – being installed - ongoing
SH23/036 Safe Avon information on Severn Ham board – complete
SH23/038 Botanical report circulated – complete
SH253/039 Pennywort – update from Ms Corsie – ongoing

SH 23/054 **To receive an update from Severn Trent and to agree any actions**
No update was received from Severn Trent.

SH 23/055 **To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions**
A report was received from Mrs Andrews.
There is no data re: Abbey Mill reinstatement strip, Mrs Andrews will seek to get an update.
The eel pass works have been delayed due to flooding.
Floating Pennywort, removal of this invasive non-native species will require a co-ordinated approach across the whole catchment. A working group will be created with stakeholders to kickstart the management and eradication of the pennywort.

Helping the fish home project. The EA have identified that there are still delays to fish coming up the weirs (Maisemore and Upper Lode) The delay at Maisemore is 4-5 days, which results in increased predation. Salmon stocks on the Severn are in crisis and it is important that these big barriers are tackled as well as habitat issues. A fish pass at Upper Lode is being considered in feasibility stage, any construction would not happen until 2026/27. The potential problem is funding. Anything that happens will be based on full partnership working.

A Committee Member asked about fishing. Mrs Andrew responded that there will still be angling, and they want the angling community to be part of this discussion. These projects will hopefully make the fish less vulnerable and more sustainable.

SH 23/056 **To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions**

Ms Corsie provided the following update:
Catchment Partnerships (CaBa) are open to anyone who is involved in the water environment. Tewkesbury falls between two catchment partnerships – Severn Vale and Warwickshire Avon. If committee members would like to be added to the mailing lists, please contact Mrs Andrews.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation is currently open. Gloucestershire County Council is the responsible authority.

Action: Circulate details to the committee.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Steve Pullen has sent the monitoring survey for works done on the Severn Ham for Severn Trent. The report indicates a positive situation at the time of monitoring. Donor site at Coombe Hill has also been unscathed from the harvesting.

Kym Jackson at Marshlands - visit for committee on June 11th. He is happy for hand collecting of seed if desired.

Curlew are back and are calling. Two pairs near the Marina. There were three birds calling on southwest quarter. Dogs on leads signs up will be put up over the next few days.

SH 23/057 **To receive an update from Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association**
Deferred to the next meeting.

SH 23/058 **To receive an update from the Assistant Town Clerk and agree any actions including:**

- i. To appoint Carver Knowles as Land Agent for 2024/25
It was RESOLVED to appoint Carver Knowles as Land Agent for 2024/25.
Proposed by Cllr Brookes, seconded by Cllr Raywood.
- ii. To appoint Caroline Corsie as Environmental Advisor for 2024/25
It was RESOLVED to appoint Caroline Corsie as Environmental Advisor for 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.
- iii. Eelscape Project – meeting held in February with Eelscape team and Eunomia regarding future funding options. Eunomia meeting with individual land managers in the next few months to discuss which options might work best.
- iv. Future funding for the Severn Ham – Higher Level Stewardship current runs to the end of December 2028. In the meantime, the Basic Payment Scheme continues to decrease. New options may be available within the Sustainable Farming Incentive 2024 that would be more beneficial. Currently investigating the options and liaising with Natural England.
- v. Rootwave / Legacy Issues - the issue with the docks remains. Have received no response from Severn Trent regarding the solution.
- vi. Extended flooding period on the Ham – concerns as to the impact of five long flooding incidents since October 2023. **Action:** Apply for permission from Natural England for small test area of harrowing following floods.
- vii. Hinckley Point C consultation – feedback has been submitted opposing the removal of the Lower Lode Weir. Full response can be found in Planning Committee minutes dated 7th February 2024.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

- viii. To approve up to £2000 for costs of green hay and spreading. The committee discussed this issue regarding the damage caused by extensive flooding this year and whether there were any additional steps that could be taken. Committee agreed that if additional bales were available, the area to have hay applied could be extended. Full budget to be allocated.

It was RESOLVED to approve up to £4000 for hay and application this year.
Proposed by Cllr Brookes, seconded by Cllr Cody.

The Committee also noted the work programme.

The Committee discussed engagement with local schools.

Action: Cllr Cody to speak to Tewkesbury C of E School.

SH 23/059 **To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report**
The reports were received.

SH 23/060 **To agree the earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year 2023/24**

It was RESOLVED to earmark the following reserves:
 £3784 from 1620 Hay Auction to EMR343 SH Weeding
 £1100 from 4450 Maintenance to EMR329 SH Severn Ham
 £2495 from 4855 Hay Sowing Project to EMR343 SH Weeding
 £900 from 4860 Volunteers to EMR343 SH Weeding
 £2500 from 4870 Weeding to EMR343 SH Weeding
 £3000 from 4875 Tree Conservation to EMR343 SH Weeding
 £2000 from 4890 Carver Knowles to EMR329 SH Severn Ham
 £24,893 from 1715 Reinstatement Compensation to EMR329 SH Severn Ham

Proposed by Cllr Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

Next meeting: Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 10am

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes