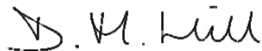


TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SEVERN HAM COMMITTEE
13th MARCH 2024

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 **Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 10:00 am.**

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.



Debbie Hill
Town Clerk
4th March 2024

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of interests
3. Dispensations
4. To approve the minutes of the Severn Ham committee meeting held on 20th December 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 Severn Trent and agree any actions
9. To receive an update from the Environment Agency and agree any actions
10. To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Adviser and agree any actions.
11. To receive an update from Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association
12. 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
 - ii. To appoint Caroline Corsie as Environmental Adviser for 2024/25
 - iii. Eelscape Project
 - iv. Future funding for the Severn Ham
 - v. Rootwave / Legacy Issues

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- vi.** Extended flooding period on the Ham
 - vii.** Hinkley Point C Consultation update
 - viii.** To approve up to £2000 for costs of green hay and spreading
- 13.** To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report
- 14.** To agree the earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year 2023/24



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 20th December 2023 at 10.00am

Present: Cllrs P Brookes (Chair), E Ash, J Baddams, C Danter, P Jones, J Raywood, Ms C Corsie, Mr M Cornwall-Kelly

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

SH 23/029 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mrs Andrews, Mr Perry & Cllr Cody.

SH 23/030 To record declarations of interest
Mr M Cornwall-Kelly – Clerk to the Commoners

SH 23/031 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 23/032 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023. Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Baddams.

SH 23/033 Public Participation
One member of the public asked the following questions:

- i. In the area where the initial pipe burst took place, there is now a semi-permanent wet area and the rutting from the vehicles remains. Does the committee plan to do anything with it, as the individual believes it would be best to leave it. [The Committee agrees that the area should be left at present and closely monitored.](#)
- ii. Pollution – how are we holding the Environment Agency and Severn Trent to account. This is a particular issue with the slow moving Avon. [Agreed, this is an ongoing issue and one we are discussing within the meeting.](#)
- iii. Left over rubble at the edge of the bund from the resurfacing. [Check with the fishermen that they have used all that they need for maintenance of the pegs.](#)

SH 23/034 Correspondence
There was no correspondence received.

SH 23/035 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – ongoing.
SH21/042 Mythe Nature Reserve adoption – complete – GWT no longer selling.
SH22/058 Eel Pass monitoring details – ongoing.



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SH22/070 Legacy proposal – circulated – now with Severn Trent.

SH23/025 Plug plant project – assent given – ongoing.

SH23/025 Trough leak – leak fixed – complete.

SH23/026 Grazier's details – circulated – complete.

SH23/026 Bird boxes – on order – ongoing.

SH 23/036

To receive a presentation on the Citizen Science project focussing on water quality in the River Avon and agree any actions

The committee received a talk from Mr Sallis who represents the Safe Avon group.

Safe Avon was started in 2020 as a project carrying out weekly tests for phosphates and nitrates along the Avon. The project involves numerous environmental groups, and these tests are carried out with the same methodology as Cardiff University uses on the Wye. Currently Stratford and Tewkesbury (three sites) are covered. Training is underway in Pershore and Coventry and by March 2024 the majority of the river will be covered.

Environment Agency (EA), Ofwat and the Government know that the river is polluted. There have been 75% cuts to EA since 2010. There is a focus on flooding rather than river pollution as people can't see it. The group believe that although farming is an issue, it's not the biggest issue, this is the issue of combined flooding and sewage overflow, even treated sewage can be highly polluted.

Rivers normally have a low nitrate basis, with sewage overflow the rivers are flooded with nutrients and therefore the original species are dying off and the more invasive species are taking over, as they can adapt to the new nutrient levels.

Tewkesbury testing takes place at on the Carrant Brook at Twyning, at the Abbey Mill and the Swilgate and the group would like to expand it to below the outlets at the Lower Lode and the A38. Once the tests are established, it should be possible to see whether there are rising pollution levels at these spots.

There are 27 weirs between Tewkesbury and Stratford. The pollution levels are higher on the Avon than the Wye, but the issues with the Wye are more well known, due to the higher profile. To raise the profile of the Avon there first needs to be testing and results, and then the second part is campaigning and raising awareness.

The committee discussed what action plan should be put in place as a Town Council.

Actions: Severn Ham noticeboards to be used to share information about the pollution issues. Mr Sallis to provide information about what other Councils have done in terms of signage. See what other councils have done in terms of signage. Use the Severn Ham Facebook page to educate.

Additional kits would enable further monitoring on the Lower Lode and the A38 from the bridge, cost is £180 per kit, plus a further £60 for consumables.



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It was RESOLVED to provide two kits and consumables at a total cost of £480.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Baddam.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to contact Mr Sallis regarding the information and how to create poster. Consider QR code for the poster to find out more information.

SH 23/037 To receive an update from Severn Trent and to agree any actions

No update received from Severn Trent.

SH 23/038 To receive an update from the Environment Agency and to agree any actions

A report was received from Mrs Andrews. This advised that the monitoring of the restorations strip continues and that the planned minor works to the eel pass are still being scoped.

The report also provided feedback to the report provided by the citizen science group in terms of how to work more closely with the Environment Agency and also with the Warwickshire Avon CaBA (catchment-based approach).

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to circulate the botanical report.

SH 23/039 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions

Ms Corsie provided the following update:

This year the functional link was established for the Ham, in respect of the curlew, and this links to the Higher Level Stewardship.

Assent has been given for the planting of 128 Greater Burnett plug plants on the Ham in the spring. This is good news as it is the emblem of the floristic community that sits in part of the Ham.

Birds are being fed on the Ham and people call it the singing bench.

Nest boxes are coming in January.

It is great that the sheep made it on to the Ham as even for just a short time improves the ecosystem.

There is free farm resilience advice from the Government, Caroline has had a positive experience with them. **Action:** details to be shared with the Town Council & the Commoners.

Action: Caroline to ask Avon Navigation Trust what the status of the new machine for the pennywort is.



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SH 23/040

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

- i. Grazing – Autumn 2023. The Autumn grazing was initially delayed by a month due to the late hay cut. This was due to wet conditions throughout July and August. The Town Council compensated the grazier for the loss of one month's grazing (at a pro-rata cost of £100).

Due to flooding in October and an inconclusive TB test, it was not possible to get cattle on to the Ham this year. Natural England were contacted and advised that in these circumstances the Difficult Site Supplement would remain payable. This will be paid to the Tewkesbury Commoners as all efforts were made to secure cattle and sheep for the Ham.

Six weeks grazing in total this year. Farmer will continue next year. Commoners have offered a discount for next year and willing to repeat 300 sheep and 30 cattle.

- ii. Eelscape Project – soil sampling and baseline flora and fauna surveys took place over the summer. Update meeting due in the early new year.
- iii. Rootwave / Legacy Issues – proposal submitted to Severn Trent, awaiting response. Also awaiting responses on repairs to the bund and water monitoring feedback.
- iv. Tree and scrub work – assent submitted.

The Committee also noted the work programme.

SH 23/041

To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report
The reports were received.

SH 23/042

To release £7,485 earmarked reserves (EMR 346 Footpath Repairs) to 500/4905 Footpath Repairs

It was RESOLVED to release £7,485 earmarked reserves (EMR 346 Footpath Repairs) to 500/4905 Footpath Repairs. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 23/043

To release £5,000 earmarked reserves (EMR 358 SH Mythe Nature Reserve) to General Reserves

It was RESOLVED to release £5,000 earmarked reserves (EMR 358 SH Mythe Nature Reserve) to General Reserves. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 23/044

To consider and agree the virement of £4,000 from Ancillary Management (500/4880) to Staffing Professional (110/4100)

It was RESOLVED to agree the virement of £4,000 from Ancillary Management to Staffing Professional. Proposed by Cllr Baddams, seconded by Cllr Danter.



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SH 23/045 To consider and agree the committee budget for 2024/25
It was RESOLVED to agree the committee budget for 2024/25.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Ash.

SH 23/046 To approve the payments list
It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £4188.15.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

The meeting closed at 11.33 am.

Next meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2023 at 10am in Mayor's Parlour.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes

DRAFT

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 26/02/2024

Month No: 11

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	9,557	9,420	(137)			
1640 Wayleaves	378	390	12			
1700 Fishing Rights	1,800	1,500	(300)			
1710 HLS Payment	22,066	22,248	183			
1715 Reinstatement Compensation	34,175	0	(34,175)			
Severn Ham :- Income	71,949	33,748	(38,201)			0
4450 Maintenance	333	1,500	1,167		1,167	
4550 Water	69	265	196		196	
4850 Commoners Grazing Compensation	2,700	3,500	800		800	
4855 Hay Sowing Project	2,255	4,750	2,495		2,495	
4860 Volunteers (Rec & Prom)	508	1,500	992		992	
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	
4885 Nesting Project	340	1,500	1,160	717	444	
4890 Carver Knowles	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	
4895 Cross Compliance Consultant	495	530	35		35	
4900 Conservation Advisor	3,750	5,571	1,821		1,821	
4905 Footpath Repairs	9,985	2,500	(7,485)		(7,485)	7,485
4910 Reinstatement Expenditure	9,282	0	(9,282)		(9,282)	
Severn Ham :- Indirect Expenditure	30,216	29,616	(600)	717	(1,317)	7,485
Net Income over Expenditure	41,733	4,132	(37,601)			
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	7,485					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	49,218					
Grand Totals:- Income	71,949	33,748	(38,201)			
Expenditure	30,216	29,616	(600)	717	(1,317)	
Net Income over Expenditure	41,733	4,132	(37,601)			
plus Transfer from EMR	7,485					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	49,218					

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
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
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
335 EMR E&A Bus Shelters	2,640.00		2,640.00
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	-7,485.00	3,253.00
347 EMR PLA Comm. & Display	1,306.00	-1,306.00	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
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	0.00
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
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	0.00
369 EMR STA Training	2,087.00		2,087.00
	<u>277,142.96</u>	<u>-15,446.00</u>	<u>261,696.96</u>

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