



**TEWKESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the

Severn Ham Committee meeting

Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 11th December 2024 at 10.00am

Present: Cllrs P Brookes (Chair), C Cody, J Raywood, Ms C Corsie, Mr Perry, Mr Baggs (Clerk to the Commoners), Mr P Jones, Ms A Martyn-Smith (Dalcour McLaren), Mr M Jones (ST), Mr A Pagel (GEDA), Mr I Pitt (GEDA), Mr R Safe (TPAA)

In attendance: J King (Deputy Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

SH 24/024 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Danter, Ash and Ms Andrews

SH 24/025 To record declarations of interest
Mr Baggs – Clerk to the Commoners.
Mr Perry – Farming interest.

SH 24/026 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 24/027 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2024
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2024. Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 24/028 Public Participation
A member of the public raised the following issues:

- Issue with fly tipping on Lower Lode Lane and it ending up in the river – Cllr Cody picked up this issue as a Borough Councillor
- Plastic bottles that are left on the Ham after each flood
- Could the Ham have a ranger scheme to help look after it?

SH 24/029 Correspondence
No correspondence.

SH 24/030 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 – with Severn Trent (ST)
SH23/026 Bird boxes – installed, to be numbered and records completed
SH23/039 Pennywort – with Environment Agency – ongoing
SH23/058 Apply to Natural England to harrow an area – on hold

SH24/011 Swan support options – Moorings Committee to approach ANT for signage request – complete. Nesting options still being investigated.

SH 24/031 To receive an update from Severn Trent and to agree any actions

The following update was provided by Severn Trent:

Work on the Ham has stopped due to the flooding. The pipe bridge has been stabilised and although there are 3-4 days of resin injection work still to be completed, Severn Trent are structurally happy with the work under water.

The Environment Agency have agreed to temporary rocks being placed along the bank to further protect it over the winter and this work will take as soon as water levels allow. The residual resin work will take place in January if possible.

Consultation for this temporary strategy has included the Environment Agency and Natural England and both agree with the approach.

Additional posts and signs will be erected along the access track, as there are concerns that the deep ruts may not be visible if it snows.

Legacy Project – Severn Trent have agreed in principle to cover the costs of the Rootwave machine. Updated quotation is required as costs are from 2022.

SH 24/032 To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions

Ms Corsie provided the following update:

It was not possible to spread the hay on the bund this year due to weather conditions. A check on the viability of the yellow rattle seed needs to be completed as it has been in storage for two years.

Kingfishers have been spotted nesting in the wall around Healings Mill, will be added to the species list and registered centrally.

SH 24/033 To receive an update from Karen Andrews, Environment Agency

Pennywort consultation is open until the end of the year.

SH 24/034 To receive an update from Tewkesbury Popular Anglers Association

TPAA reported concerns about the pollution in the river.

SH 24/035 To receive an update from the Deputy Town Clerk and agree any actions

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she and the Chair had been to the meeting organised by Friends of the Earth with Cameron Thomas MP. They raised the issue regarding the pollution from the river that sits on the Ham when it floods. Cameron is going to raise the issue with Severn Trent.

Grazing 2024

Early flooding in the season, meant that the Ham was left unusually boggy over the Autumn months. Due to this it was not possible to get cattle on to the Ham.



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Although the circumstances were different to last year, best efforts were made to ensure cattle could come on to the Ham in the right conditions and as such the difficult site supplement will be payable. Sheep have been present throughout the season (apart from when it has been under water) and thanks are given to the grazier for his patience with what has been another difficult grazing year.

Hay sale 2025

The hay sale in 2024 cost £400 in auction fees, brought in £732.27, haylage removal cost £800. So net cost to the council was £467.

It is proposed that in 2025 the Ham is offered as one site (still with the early and later cut requirements), but that it has to be taken as one lot. Fees would decrease and potentially the council could be better off.

It was RESOLVED to sell the hay as one lot in 2025.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Mr Baggs.

Eelscape Project

High-level plans have been received. They focus on three scrapes / ponds in the southern half of the Ham, in the areas where the docks are worst and avoids placing them on top of the pipeline. The total proposed area is about 6 hectares, the total site is just less than 70 hectares.

In order to be considered 'Landscape Recovery' and potentially access higher rates of funding for a longer period; than the Countryside Stewardship options, the plan has to be ambitious and ideally be more than just a small scrape.

Ponds provide a greater year-round diversity for wildlife and will also offer fresh water in the southern end for grazing sheep, rather than relying on the northern trough. The project team have asked the committee to consider how they would feel about introducing a more permanent pond, instead of one of the scrapes.

The project team are also looking to carry out an accessibility audit on the site in the Spring looking at more broad accessibility issues, rather than just focussing on physical restrictions. Cllr Cody volunteered to accompany the team carrying out the audit.

In terms of ambition, the project is also looking at educational / health programmes that could run across both Tewkesbury Nature Reserve and the Ham.

The deadline for committing to the next steps in the project is 4th June 2025 (GWT submission date) and the draft wording for the agreement will be available in the Spring.

It was RESOLVED to agree the draft high-level intervention plan (including three scrapes / ponds totalling approximately 6 hectares being installed on the Severn Ham - subject to the final wording in the agreement being acceptable) and the concerns



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regarding soil from the scrapes being spread on the Ham and potentially spreading dock seeds in a wider area.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

To support Safe Avon with the purchase of test consumables for the forthcoming year at a cost of £188

It was RESOLVED to purchase the test consumables for Safe Avon at a cost of £188.

Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Cody.

EDF project to support migratory fish

EDF are meeting with the committee in January to outline their preliminary plans and the next steps of the consultation process.

SH 24/036 To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report

The reports were received.

SH 24/037 To agree the virement of £4000 from Ancillary Management (500/4800) to Staffing Professional (110/4100)

It was RESOLVED to approve the virement of £4000 from Ancillary Management (500/4800) to Staffing Professional (110/4100).

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Cody.

SH 24/038 To agree the release of £3750 from EMR344 to 500/4875 for tree works on the Ham

It was RESOLVED to release £3750 from EMR344 to 500/4875 for tree works on the Ham. Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Jones.

SH 24/039 To consider and agree the committee budget for 2025/26

It was RESOLVED to agree the committee budget for 2025/26 subject to the following alterations:

500/4865 Auction Fees - £0

500/4890 Land Agent - £1750

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

SH 24/040 To approve the payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £12,992.75.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

The meeting closed at 11.05am.

Next meeting: March 12th 2025 at 10am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes