



MINUTES
of the
Severn Ham Committee meeting
Held at Town Hall, Tewkesbury on 21st May 2025 at 10.00am

Present: Cllrs P Brookes (Chair), E Ash, R Bartlett, C Danter, J Raywood, Ms C Corsie, Mr Perry, Mr Baggs (Clerk to the Commoners), Mr Renals (Environment Agency)

In attendance: J King (Deputy Town Clerk), Mr R Safe

SH 25/001 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Cody & Gurney.

SH 25/002 To record declarations of interest
Mr Baggs – Clerk to the Commoners
Mr Perry – Farming interest

SH 25/003 To consider requests for dispensations
None received.

SH 25/004 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2025
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2025.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Danter.

SH 25/005 Public Participation
A member of the public commented that pollution levels on rivers are above the safe levels and have been for over 20 years are affecting the ecology in both rivers and streams.
If scrapes are introduced would pollution from rivers harm the flora and fauna in the area?
What are Severn Trent (ST) doing about the discharge on Lincoln Green Lane?
Response: Already referred on to ST and Tewkesbury Borough Council, as well as Cameron Thomas MP. ST say it is coming from washing machine soapy water, this is being followed up.

SH 25/006 Correspondence
No correspondence.

SH 25/007 Matters arising from the previous minutes – for information only
SH20/024 ELMS Model for the Severn Ham – closed as now covered by Eelscape project
SH22/058 Eel Pass monitoring details – ongoing
SH22/070 Legacy proposal – Updated draft proposal sent to Severn Trent for consideration – ongoing



SH23/039 Pennywort – later in agenda

SH23/058 Apply to Natural England to harrow an area – on hold

SH24/011 Swan support options – permission from EA required to install a floating nesting platform, swans have currently had a successful year with 9 cygnets- ongoing

SH24/048 Update on eel licences – ongoing

SH 25/008

To receive an update from Severn Trent and to agree any actions

Work on the 2024 burst site by the green bridge starts again on 27th May. This will be the additional resin work and will take approximately 3 weeks. Boulders and root balls will be taken down to the site ready for the bank reinstatement once the hole has been backfilled. Work cannot start on the bank reinstatement until permission has been received from Environment Agency. This is a problem as timeline has gone from 12 weeks to 18 weeks for permission to come through. If it is 18 weeks the earliest works could start would be the end of August 2025 and there is a significant risk of the works not being completed before flood season. Therefore reinstatement of the track is unlikely to start until 2026.

Update on burst 2025-A on the old water main – repair works are complete, requires green hay as regrowth poor due to dry conditions.

Update on burst 2025-B – is hoped that work will start w/c 27th May. Another significant pipeline burst in the County has delayed start of this work. Green hay will also be applied to this site at the same time as 2025-A. It is hoped that both 2025A & B works will be completed; other than the ongoing restoration monitoring, by the end of the summer.

SH 25/009

To receive an update from Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association

Mr Safe provided the following update:

Mr Safe removed the four small areas of floating pennywort from the Abbey Mill and to date there are not the rafts that there were last year. Other parts of the river are already suffering with extensive floating pennywort, so the EA and collaborative working party are concentrating on some of the areas upstream – around Eckington, Bredon and Strensham Lock.

Mr Taleks advised that the Environment Agency is carrying out extensive monitoring of the Lower Avon, as well as tackling water primrose. **Action:** EA to share with Caroline the protocol on moving floating pennywort.

Individuals are encouraged to use the INNSmapper app to record any invasive species seen, it includes the ability to take pictures and geolocate the findings.

SH 25/010

To receive an update from Caroline Corsie, Environmental Advisor and to agree any actions

Ms Corsie provided the following update:



Eelscapes update, currently working towards all reports being sent to Defra by June 4th. The project will then go into assurance and if it gets approved, the legal land agreements will then be created. It is the most prominent funding scheme available at the moment, as the alternative (SFI) was pulled by the Government due to uncapped funding.

Great burnet plug plants have been planted in plot 5. They will hopefully eventually become prolific on the site and can tolerate the high phosphate levels.

- SH 25/011 To receive an update from Talek Renals, Environment Agency**
Update on beaver introduction – Environment Agency have undertaken the first stage of permitting process, next step is a 60 day consultation before licences may be issued. Outcome should be known by the next meeting.
- SH 25/012 To receive an update from Tewkesbury Commoners regarding Eelscapes and agree any actions**
Mr Bagg gave the following update:
Annual meeting has been held and the Trustees of Tewkesbury Commons voted to support/join the Eelscape scheme. Details of financial arrangements are yet to be finalised.
- SH 25/013 To receive an update from the Deputy Town Clerk and agree any actions**
(i) Improving fish mitigation along the Severn
Updates have been delayed due to staff illness with EDF. Next call end of May / beginning of June.
(ii) Litter picking on the Ham
Thanks to Severn Trent, GEDA and Dalcour Maclaren who carried out a site wide litter pick before Easter. Thanks also to those who litter pick every day and keep the site looking so good, the unsung heroes of the Ham.
(iii) Hay sale
The particulars have been agreed and are being distributed with a closing date of 6th June. As previously discussed, the Ham is being sold as one plot this year.
- SH 25/014 To receive the committee budget report and earmarked reserve report**
The reports were received.

The meeting closed at 10.45am

Next meeting dates:

September 24th 2025, December 3rd 2025, March 25th 2026 at 10am.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes