

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 4th September 2019

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

Volunteer tasks undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC) and Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Volunteer Group Task Completed</u>	
<i>Tasks Completed (since last report)</i>			
14/07/19	Alderford	NCC	Bracken topping/fence repair completion
11/08/19	Upgate	NEWS	Pond clearance (Bottomless) and balsam pulling
<i>Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)</i>			
15/09/19	Upgate	NCC	Mowing/raking meadow - tbc

2. Management Plans

Still waiting for completion of maps to complete draft plans – no further progress although holding off to see what scheme may be applicable depending upon Brexit etc.

Need to organise footpath tree safety audit completion as agreed at last meeting.

3. HLS Agreements

Remittance received for remaining unpaid claims relating to 2018. See Finance report for financial transactions.

4. Upgate Common

Ponies still away at Booton Common. The fen area appears to have benefitted from the temporary absence of the ponies.

Small areas of scattered Himalayan Balsam removed, but still present on land adjacent to the common that may spread back.

Contractor George Taylor attended site on 02/08/19 to spray birch regrowth from original clearance over the winter with herbicide. Cost £87.

Reedmace and Bogbean removed from an area of Bottomless Pond during task on 11/08/19 which was starting to choke the pond. Material temporarily left on pond edge to allow any trapped amphibians/invertebrates to escape back to the pond and for material to dry. Will be removed away from pond shortly.

Next task on 15/09/19 will concentrate on partial mowing of the meadow at the entrance to the common, raking off and stacking to rot down/burn.

5. Alderford Common

Deer crossings fixed with new rails, completing fence repair for Alderford and bracken topped within fenced area during task on 14/07/19. Path from Station Road car park down to fenced area cleared as well. Additional path clearance carried out on other paths on a number of occasions.

Small amounts of regrowth of the area of Japanese Knotweed treated by contractor George Taylor on 02/0/19. Cost included with Upgate invoice.

Grazing licence for Alderford signed by the PC and NWT ready for grazing in January 2020.

Tasks in the Autumn likely to include some scrub clearance and readying fenced area for grazing and clearance works in and around ponds. Dates and exact tasks tbc.

Steve Williams – September 2019

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council