

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 17th January 2018

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

Undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC) and Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS).

Tasks Completed (since last report)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Volunteer Group Task Completed</u> | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|--|
|--------------------|------------------------|--|--|

None since November (13 task days completed in 2017).

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|------|-----------------------|
| 28/01/18 | Uppgate | NCC | Scrub clearance - tbc |
| 25/03/18 | Alderford | NEWS | tbc |

2. Management Plans

Proposal received from Dave Weaver (former Natural England Advisor) for drafting the new management plans – agenda item for consideration.

3. HLS Agreements

See Finance report for financial transactions

4. Uppgate Common

The scab on the muzzle of one of the ponies appeared to get worse and the vet attended to check the pony out and take a sample for analysis. The pony was judged to be ok and the test results suggested a non-malignant growth. The vet advised a watching brief rather than surgery so a close eye is being kept on the animal in the short term.

Boardwalk – Broken boards and additional signage still need sorting. This will get completed shortly.

Met Contractor George Taylor on site on 03/12/17 to agree area for scrub clearance. He will attend site to remove and treat the large area of birch regrowth on the northern side of Deadmans Hill and into the transition with the Valley Fen late January/early February (4 days agreed, anticipated cost c.£500).

Future volunteer work for the next few months will include; boardwalk repair (anticipated cost c.£50), scrub clearance around fen transition and coppicing of old gorse plus, possible additional clearance around ponds, plus possible clearance of brash from trimming of trees beneath the power lines.

5. Alderford Common

The Japanese Knotweed stand is under control, but likely to require still further treatment over the coming year in order to ensure total eradication.

No one has been found yet to take on grazing within the fenced area for the coming year.

Future volunteer work for the next few months will include; more cutting, raking and scrub removal, clearance around ponds and possible bracken removal. Also possible opening up of the main track into the fenced grassed area which could make it more attractive to potential graziers.

Steve Williams – January 2018

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council