

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 21st March 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</u>	<u>Task Completed</u>
28/01/18	Upgate	NCC	Clearance of birch saplings from Deadman's Hill
11/02/18	Alderford	NCC	Cutting and raking of grassland & pond clearance

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

25/03/18	Upgate	NEWS	Clearance of birch saplings from Deadman's Hill
##/04/18	tbc	NCC	tbc

2. Management Plans

Proposal for production of new management plans received from Dave Weaver accepted at the last PC meeting and DW informed of our acceptance. DW to start drafting outline documents based on a Natural England template. New site descriptions will be required, to a certain extent influenced by condition assessments and surveys to be undertaken over the coming months. Meeting arranged to discuss proposals with our Natural England advisor but this was postponed due to the recent weather and the meeting is being rescheduled for early May 2018 (date to be confirmed).

3. HLS Agreements

See Finance report for financial transactions

4. Upgate Common

The growth on the muzzle of one of the ponies appears to be getting bigger, but the animal otherwise appears to be in good health. NWT are monitoring and the vet may choose to remove the lump during next visit (provisionally planned for 16th May).

The broken boards on the boardwalk were replaced and netting refixed by Steve Griggs with a little help from myself on the weekend of the 27/28 January (material cost of £102.30).

Consideration could be given to removing the damaged section of boardwalk over the Bridge Pond, which is potentially hazardous and not generally used. Any boards in good condition could then be used for future repairs on the other sections.

No further contact had from Norfolk Trails regarding their proposal for possible application for funding for replacement of the boardwalk as part of the Marriots Way Heritage Project.

NCC attended site on the 28/01/18 and completed a task removing some of the birch saplings on Deadman's Hill (cost – NCC expenses ~£30).

Contractor George Taylor also completed 4 days clearance and treatment of saplings in the far north east corner and along the transition zone between the valley fen and Deadman's Hill (cost £570).

Future volunteer task organised with NEWS for Sunday 25/03/18 to involve further clearance of scrub on the side of Deadman's Hill. Work will then cease for April and May to avoid disturbance during the nesting season.

5. Alderford Common

The sign on the Common located just off Station Road has been repaired and re-erected (cost of repair £85).

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

NCC attended site on 11/02/18 and cleared scrub and vegetation from within the fenced area and from around the ponds (cost~£30). Volunteer work for the next few months will cease over the nesting season.

Steve Williams – March 2018

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council