

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 16th September 2020

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

Volunteer tasks undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC) and Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS) unless otherwise stated. Now operating a reduced schedule of tasks with a maximum of 6 volunteers per group.

Date **Location** **Volunteer Group** **Task Completed**

Tasks Completed (since last report)

13/09/20 Upgate NCC Raking grassland

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

20/09/20 Upgate NEWS Mowing and raking of glades

2. Management Plans

No further action.

Footpath tree safety audit instructed but not yet completed due to pandemic (cost of £400). Contractor may be required where any diseased/damaged trees are identified that pose a risk to public safety.

3. HLS Agreements

Nothing to report

4. Upgate Common

All well with the ponies.

Michael Bye was asked and kindly agreed to mow the grassland with a tractor mounted topper. Mowing completed on 04/09/20. Cut grass raked up by NCC volunteer group on 13/09/20 with some assistance from Michael Bye.

NEWS volunteer group booked in for 20/09/20 to do some additional mowing and raking of some of the glades. Small amounts of scattered Himalayan Balsam pulled at various times, mainly from the western and eastern extremities adjacent to the Beck.

Signs notifying prohibition of unauthorised vehicles, camping, BBQs and fires erected at main foot access point off car parking area and vehicle access point off the road.

Meeting held with a surveyor from BTS on 03/09/20 regarding trimming back trees along the power rides on behalf of National Grid. No urgent concerns and work may happen this year or may be postponed into 2021. BTS to inform NE and the PC prior to commencement.

Contractor George Taylor has been contacted to arrange for cutting and burning of the large stand of birch saplings growing on the side of Deadman's Hill. (anticipated cost £600).

Boardwalk covered under separate agenda item/footpaths.

Future tasks for the autumn likely to involve possible pond maintenance and scrub control.

5. Alderford Common

A large pile of garden waste was flytipped on the car park and this was removed on 06/09/20.

Some Japanese Knotweed has regrown on the periphery of the area previously treated that will require treatment. Contact has been made with contractor George Taylor to arrange for treatment (anticipated cost £75).

Future tasks for the autumn likely to involve possible pond maintenance and scrub control

Steve Williams – September 2020

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council