

Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 5th May 2021

1. Volunteer Group Tasks

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Volunteer Group</u>	<u>Task Completed</u>
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Tasks Completed (since last report)

Volunteer groups have not currently been operating.

Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)

Volunteer groups starting tasks again. Possible date from NEWS either 13th or 27th June, subject to confirmation. Awaiting new schedule form NCC for June/July.

2. Management Plans

No further action.

Footpath tree safety audit instructed but still not yet completed due to pandemic (anticipated cost of £400).

3. HLS Agreements

Extensions of the existing HLS agreements for Upgate and Alderford commons are confirmed for period 01/06/2021 until 31/05/2022.

Claim forms for 2021 (Period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021) have been submitted to the RPA (receipt acknowledged).

4. Upgate Common

Invoice received from NWT for grazing costs for year up to 31/03/21 (£1,636.00).

A decision still needs to be made regarding the future boardwalk replacement/ alternative solution/ rerouting of path to drier ground etc).

The Wynch's Way information board that fell down due to rotten supporting posts is due for repair and re-erection in the coming weeks.

Future volunteer tasks will hopefully be able to recommence in the summer, starting in June.

5. Alderford Common

CGM have commenced cutting of some of the agreed footpaths crossing the common. Parts of footpath FP 10 need realigning to the official route prior to any regular maintenance occurring. South eastern section exiting onto the Reephams Road opposite the junction has been cleared but needs some levelling and the sign re-positioned. Currently liaising with NCC regarding this and the reinstatement of the north western section.

The southern section of the fenced area that is overgrown and fallen down in a number of places still needs attention. Contractors to be approached for quotations with a view to fixing over the summer.

Discussions had with cycle users using the south eastern part of the common. Information sign posted on tree by the road as agreed, but sign removed within a couple of days. Not replaced to date.

Contact received from member of the public who would like to plant a native tree (eg Oak) in the southern extremity of the common near to the new housing development on Station Road in memory of her mother who lived in the old houses there for all her life. This would seem acceptable as long as it is a native tree and would be a replacement for the large tree that fell down in that location a few years back.

Future volunteer tasks will hopefully be able to recommence in the summer, starting in June/July.

Steve Williams – May 2021

Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council