

# Commons Update for Parish Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## 1. Commons Report

### Volunteer Group Tasks

#### **Completed**

22/11/15	Upgate	NEWS	Scrub removal, mowing/raking
20/12/15	Upgate	NCC	Scrub removal, (Deadmans Hill - Xmas task)
10/01/16	Upgate	NEWS	Scrub removal (Deadmans Hill) / mend breach in Beck

#### **Planned**

07/02/16	Upgate	NCC	Scrub removal, mowing/raking
28/02/16	Alderford	NCC	tbc
06/03/16	Alderford	NEWS	tbc

### Management Plans

No further action

### HLS Agreement

Following an audit, some errors have been found in areas used for calculation of certain options making up the annual payments of our HLS agreement. This affects both Alderford and Upgate for the entire duration of the agreement (10 years). DW is trying to reduce the impact by adding in another option for Alderford but a repayment will result of around £200 which will be deducted from the usual payment and ongoing payments will be slightly reduced. DW to write to the PC to set out the recalculation.

### Upgate Common

Ponies ok – no problems to report.

A breach occurred in November in the Beck below the fen at Upgate which flooded the woodland to the north of the Beck. This was temporarily fixed by SW/DW and the dam has been added to since then which seems to have fixed the problem, but further work probably required to ensure longevity.

Boardwalk – a number of boards now broken that will need fixing. Require to purchase some more boards as no spares left + more nails. Estimated cost £100-£200 depending on no. of boards obtained.

Meeting held at Upgate with George Taylor on 10/01/16. Agreed 3 days works to clear scrub from fen area and a further 0.5 day return in the spring to do follow up spraying (estimated cost £800 to include some treatment of remains of Japanese Knotweed at Alderford).

MR kindly helped remove a fallen tree from above the fenceline with his chainsaw. Did we have a PC chainsaw or could we perhaps purchase a new (or second hand) one? Could be useful when trees come down and generally for removing stumps after scrub clearance.

### Alderford Common

NWT have provided some contacts that they work with who may be interested in grazing. SW still to contact them to see if something can be arranged for 2016.

Some minor regrowth of the Japanese Knotweed on the edges of the infestation will be treated by George Taylor as part of further work at Upgate. (see above).