

# Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## **1. Volunteer Group Tasks**

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

### ***Tasks Completed (since last report)***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Volunteer Group</u></b>	<b><u>Task Completed</u></b>
11/12/16	Alderford	NEWS	Scrub clearance/burning in small valley feature
22/01/17	Alderford	NCC	Completion of scrub clearance/burning in small valley feature

### ***Tasks Planned***

12/02/17	Upgate	NEWS	Completion of scrub clearance/burning on Deadman's Hill
05/03/17	Alderford	NEWS	tbc
19/03/17	Upgate	NCC	tbc

## **2. Management Plans**

Ongoing

## **3. HLS Agreements**

HLS income and payment details contained in Finance Report.

Another meeting held with Natural England Advisor (Nik Bertholdt) on 26/01/17 to discuss performance wrt HLS objectives and to discuss management for remainder of the agreement. Generally on track, but need to address grazing on Alderford and consider options for dealing with the *Crassula* in Upgate and Alderford ponds.

## **4. Upgate Common**

Ponies OK and in good condition.

Boardwalk – holding up, but could do with some additional netting – to be undertaken in Spring when growing/nesting season limits other conservation tasks. Longer term options for the boardwalk still under consideration.

Birch scrub was removed from Deadman's Hill by a volunteer group on 04/12/16 completing the area to the one side of the path. Piles of cut scrub needs burning at next task on 12/02/17.

George Taylor completed third day of clearance on the Fen and transition area. Cost for the 3 days work £390.

The Internal Drainage Board have completed clearance of the Beck and repair of the bank adjacent to the the fen area at Upgate, where the breach occurred last winter.

Ecology surveys undertaken beginning of February on behalf of Dong Energy for the Hornsea Project 3 Offshore Windfarm cable route corridor. Considered highly unlikely that Upgate common will be directly affected.

## **5. Alderford Common**

Scrub was cleared from the small valley feature within the fenced area by volunteer groups on 11/12/16 and completed on 22/01/17.

NE have highlighted the need to get the fenced grassland area grazed (preferably by sheep) this year otherwise grant payment may be affected. Hopefully a suitable grazer can be found.

Ecology surveys undertaken beginning of February on behalf of Dong Energy for the Hornsea Project 3 Offshore Windfarm cable route corridor. Considered highly unlikely that Alderford common will be directly affected

Steve Williams  
February 2017

**Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council**