

# Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## **1. Volunteer Group Tasks**

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

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

24/03/19	Uppgate	NCC	Clearance under power rides and along Beck
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### ***Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)***

10/05/19	Alderford	NCC	Bracken topping/fence repair - tbc
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02/06/19	Uppgate	NEWS	Bracken topping/fence repair - tbc
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## **2. Management Plans**

Maps for draft plans not completed (to be completed in near future). Footpaths on the commons have been surveyed in using an accurate GPS which can be included on plan maps. Recommendation for tree safety to be included in plans. Meeting held with tree specialist (Mousehold Heath Warden) on 03/04/19 and proposal received for undertaking annual tree safety audit along footpaths of both commons with recommendation reports for any mitigation measures required. Quote value of £200/common received.

## **3. HLS Agreements**

See Finance report for financial transactions.

Applications for extension to the existing HLS Agreements for an additional year have been approved, so current management objectives and funding are maintained until May 2020. There is likely to be opportunity to further extend depending upon what happens with Brexit.

Claim forms for 2019 payments received, completed and sent back to the RPA for processing.

## **4. Uppgate Common**

Two new pony checkers have kindly come forward and are checking on a weekly basis along with existing volunteers.

NWT vet and farrier check of ponies was undertaken on 01/05/19, with no problems reported. Ponies will be taken off Uppgate at the end of May/beginning of June to give the site a rest from grazing (Ponies will temporarily be based at Booton Common) before their return at the end of the summer.

## **5. Alderford Common**

Grazing trial within the fenced area at Alderford to be commenced in January 2020 for a few weeks utilising a small number of British White cattle belonging to NWT. Grazing licence in preparation for subsequent signature by NWT.

A few fence posts will need replacing in the summer prior to any grazing (cost to be assessed) with replacement likely undertaken during a volunteer task.

**Steve Williams – May 2019**

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