

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL - MEETING TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2019

ITEM 11: Splitwind Pond - Winter maintenance recommendations

Introduction

- The Parish Council has long maintained Splitwind Pond which is situated at the junction of Romsey Road and Newbridge Road.
- A dedicated page is available for viewing on the Parish Council's website at: [Splitwing Pond](#)
- The Council has a Management Plan for its upkeep, which is within this dedicated page at: [Management Plan](#)

Aims of the Management Plan

- The prime factor determining the way the pond is managed is the known existence of Great Crested Newts. Triturus cristatus.
- To keep the pond free of encroachment with weed and plant growth so there may be a recognised amount of water free for biodiversity.
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- To keep bank vegetation cut to allow as great a diverse amount of plant species as can be within the confines of the bankside vegetation.

Recent Update on Great Crested Newts

- The Freshwater Habitats Trust have advised the Council in September 2019 that – for the 5th consecutive year – their “PondNet” survey has confirmed the presence of Great Crested Newts (“GCN”) in Splitwind Pond.
- By way of background to the survey the PondNet monitoring network for GCN is an annual survey of 131 randomly selected 1km grid squares spread throughout England. The 380 ponds which are encompassed by the network are surveyed by volunteers and project officers using eDNA (environmental DNA). The presence of GCN is detected during laboratory analysis of a water sample, which is collected using a standardised Methodology from each pond in May and June.
- Splitwind Pond is one of fewer than 50 within the 380 ponds tested where the presence of GCNs has been confirmed every year since 2015.
- More details regarding the survey can be found at: [PondNet Survey](#)

Maintenance Recommendations

- The maintenance recommendations that are shown in the Management Plan are reproduced below.
- Any pond vegetation cleared should be bagged and removed from the site to inhibit cross contamination and spreading.
- All cut vegetation ideally should be removed from the site or at least five metres from the pond edge for composting.

Activity	Frequency	When	Details
Grass cutting	To be carried out three times per year	May August November	Mow a 3 foot strip of highway verges, all of main triangle at road junction and other grass areas
Clear pond vegetation	2 x in one year	October November	Pull any bulrush (<i>Typha latifolia</i>) growing in pond centre and northern edge. Control other plant growth within main body of pond by manual means. Hand pulling, digging out or raking. Non-native species such as Australian swamp stonecrop (<i>Crassula helmsii</i>), New Zealand pygmy weed and parrots feather (<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>) should be removed as much as possible and discouraged from colonising the pond.
Tree pruning	As and when needed	October - January	Prune back overhanging branches. Cut back limbs to allow light and prevent leaf fall into pond
Strimming	To be carried out three times per year	August November March	Strim slope side to pond edges to height of 100mm. All of area behind pond (North side) 100mm. Taking care not to clear young tree growth and around cherry trees (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
Leaf collection	Leaves cleared after leaf fall	October November December	Leaves should be collected and removed from edge and road side grass strip

Recommendations to the Council

1. Catt Tree Care and the Parish Lengthsman (known contractors) are requested to price each of the five sections of the maintenance plan individually.
2. The Council authorises the Clerk, in conjunction with Councillor Goodwin, to decide which items can be undertaken within the current £600 budgeted amount.
3. The Council authorises the Clerk, if it is found necessary, to allow the inclusion of the unspent element of last year's Splitwind budget, amounting to £45, to be used to cover any shortfall.

Prepared by: John Goodwin 4th October 2019