HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING **Date: 02 November 015**

AGENDA ITEM 6

SUBJECT OF REPORT: Work currently not carried out by the Countryside Team

PURPOSE OF REPORT: In support of a new staff member for the team

- **Ecological surveys**
  All HPC Management Plans state the need for yearly or 5 yearly surveys to be carried out depending on the species being surveyed. To meet the criteria set out in the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement (HLSA), HPC also needs to carry out these surveys in order to ensure current management of the sites is appropriate and that it is meeting the ecological targets set out. So far in 2015, butterfly and pond surveys have been carried out. More surveys required include

- Soil surveys and monitoring (every 5 years)
- Phase 1 and phase 2 habitat surveys
- Wildflower surveys
- Woodland flora surveys
- Ornithological surveys (birds)
- Newt and Dormouse surveys (we are currently working towards licences)
- Entomological Surveys (insects)
- Mammal surveys (badgers at the Lith for example)

- **Fixed Point Photography (FPP)**
  Needed around the Parish as it will help with land disputes but also highlight any succession of habitat types which needs to be addressed, for example from heathland to carr woodland, another point in the HLSA agreement. FFP is specified in all Management Plans however, the last survey details held are from 2005 on Hazleton Common.

- **Invasive/undesirable Species**
  Further control, reduction or eradication is required across the Parish. In many of the areas the use of herbicide is either not permitted or very specific time consuming use of them is needed as it can be detrimental to the sites habitat and the environment. Guidelines again in the HLSA and Management Plans.

- **Trees**
  A Management Plan for all Parish trees is needed. Especially in areas where HPC trees meet residential areas with no buffer zone such as, around Yoells and Wagtail Copse. It is also needed for lesser known Parish wooded areas such as the tree line at Godwin Crescent.

The planning of this is time consuming as is the work needed to be undertaken after. This would be a mix of CT and contractors depending on the complexity/specifics of the individual job.

- **Following the woodland parts of existing Management Plans**
  Large amounts of tree work is outlined in all Management Plans and reiterated in the HLSA. This focuses on thinning of woodland and coppicing. Though in the past it had not been possible to do this on a scale that made an impact, the team is starting to undertake this now. This will involve tackling one or two compartments at each site each winter.
  Most countryside sites are divided into compartments to assist with their management. These range depending on the size and type of habitat found there. For example, 13 compartments at Catherington Lith and six at Dell Piece West.

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