

Litcham Common Conservation Group
Report for Litcham Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May 2023

Litcham Common Conservation Group was set up in January 2004 to assist with conservation work on the common. The group is relatively informal, with no written constitution or formal membership list, and uses the Litcham Common Management Committee bank account to hold funds. We are a member of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), a national organisation for voluntary groups such as ours.

The group's income this financial year included a grant of £400 from Litcham Parish Council towards the cost of insurance, tools and equipment, for which we are very grateful. We also received a grant of £100 from TCV towards the cost of a "tree popper" tool.

Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month and carry out a variety of tasks. Over the past year work done has included removing invasive scrub and trees, clearing footpaths, removing ragwort and picking up litter. The numbers attending tasks has been variable but we always manage to make a difference.

Other Conservation Group members carry out regular welfare checks on the ponies that graze the common, on a rota basis. Some long standing volunteers have retired but following appeals in the parish magazine we once again have enough people to ensure that the ponies are checked on a daily basis. We are fortunate to have some volunteers who are very competent and confident in handling the animals when we need to round them up for visits by the vet or farrier.

Tim Angell