

Loch Neaton Report

2016-2017 has been a difficult year for the few Trustees due to the chairman's Tony Watson illness and ultimate death. The trustees have been unable to arrange any committee meetings so no work parties or events have been completed. The few bailiffs remaining were also unable to man the Loch on a regular basis and it is believed that there were some illegal fishing and many fish lost as a result. This has also resulted in loss of fishing ticket earnings for funds.

Despite Tony's illness we did eventually arrange an AGM where the possibility of fencing the Loch was discussed. I am not sure of the quotes but it was beyond the financial capabilities of the Groups funds even if grants were available.

The editorial report following the AGM in the Swaffham and Watton Times may have helped as we now have a new helper/angler who is interested in helping. After the recent storm the bailiffs managed to clear one of the damaged trees and repair many of the swims, using the timber purchased and waterproofs for the helpers with the grant funds that the Town Council provided. The walkway at the South end is still awaiting repair as more timber will be needed.

We would also like to thank the Town Council gardener for clearing the paths at a reasonable cost.

Hopefully we will have a successful EAGM but in order to fully patrol the Loch we need lots of volunteers. The Loch is for the people of Watton and ultimately many are too willing to complain when things are wrong but then expect others do all the work. We are all volunteers and we have to also have to empty the bins which often include household waste and dog faeces, despite the special dog bins. I am not sure who sorts out the dog bins but special thanks to them at present SERCO are still willing to dispose of them although for the general waste we have to make other arrangements.

We would like to thank the Town Council for their generous grant and support in what has been a difficult year.

Ruth Stapleton

Loch Neaton Treasurer