Environment Committee Report, 4th October 2011 at 8.30 am, in School House.

Present: Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward (Chair)
Apologies: None

Review of last meeting:

Oxenhill Woods – The rides and meadow areas have been cut and the cuttings removed. The coppicing is progressing well during the dry weather. The cut timber is still lying in the Shaw. We are awaiting information on which route will be used to take the timber away, whether Dynes Road or Tudor Drive. The latter appears to be fraught with difficulties because of the recent installation of yellow lines, timed parking restrictions, the incline, and the difficult access onto Pilgrims Way East. Discussions are taking place. The timber at present lying in the ditch at the western side of the Shaw must be removed and the ditch left clear for the winter. ME asked if it was possible for residents with wood-burning stoves to have the opportunity to have/purchase the branches, rather than their being burnt on site. This will be investigated.

Pilgrims Way East – It is suggested that the Committee will arrange a time to cut back the ivy that is encroaching onto the footway, as was done a few years ago. The ivy on numerous trees bordering the footway and in the chalkpit itself needs to be restricted. This could be a long term voluntary group venture.

FP 49 – The overhanging branches have been cut back and the wide grass verge has been cut.

Station Approach Bank – The shrubs need severe pruning. The Committee wonder if Hadlow College could be approached as this could be a site for students, under supervision, to actively learn how to prune a variety of shrubs. An enquiring letter will be sent. ‘Spadework’ at Hildenborough may also be interested although their students are not following the same course.

Willows at the Pond – Check with Brian Thomas if a date has been set to remove the dead branches.

Jubilee Planters – The committee feel that all the organisations in the village should be approached to contribute financially towards the purchase. Substantial plastic ones are being investigated probably dark grey in colour.

Parade – Some shopkeepers have volunteered to water and maintain these once the initial planting has been done. They are also to be asked to keep their immediate frontages swept and free from litter if at all possible. The grass verge is maintained by KCC.

Telston Park – There is to be a Community Working Party on 15th October. Posters and letters have been prepared and will be distributed in the next few days to surrounding properties. Insurance has been checked, a qualified First Aid person will be present and a Risk Assessment is being finalised. McDonalds is to be approached, to see if they would provide bottled water for the event. They
wish to be involved in Community Projects. The WI’s are to be approached to see if some of their members would supply home made cakes.

Correspondence – Brian Thomas our Parish Tree Warden has prepared a report following a tree inspection of trees around the village. This was reviewed and the necessary work suggested is being put in hand.
E-mail from John Burden, ex-resident of Otford re the Willow trees and the Pond. Jonathan Webb – has supplied further Maps and Management Plans of Oxenhill Woods. They were distributed to ME, JL, and CM.

Date of next meeting – 8th November at 8.30 am in School House. January t.b.a.

EW