## Report of Environment Committee 6th Mar. 2012 held in School House at 8.30 a.m.

Present: Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward (Chair).
Apologies: None.
**All were reminded about the Oxenhill Woods meeting next Weds. 14th March at 10 a.m.**

**Chalkpit:** The scout bonfire area has now been turfed, thanks have been conveyed to Ray Groom. Brian Thomas and Norman Catt have replaced two areas of chestnut paling fence on the boundary of Station Road and Pilgrims' Way East. An Ash tree that fell during recent high winds is to be removed by Norman Catt. N.C.

**Pilgrims' Way East:** Cllr. Jon Verrall has cut back the ivy encroaching onto the footway and has removed overhanging vegetation from the metal railings.

**Recreation Ground:** Dog fouling and litter are still matters of great concern. Repeated articles in the monthly Newsletter do not seem to reach the offending dog owners. An explanatory notice will be attached to each entrance to the Rec. to see if this will arouse responsibility of owning a dog!

**LITTER!**

A long discussion followed concerning litter. Due to lack of funding, Simon Still's hours will be cut as from April. On working through his schedule it was felt that the two bins in the cemetery should be emptied on a Mon. and Fri. and ask McDonalds to come twice a week on Tues. Weds. or Thurs. particularly during the summer months. They have in the past litter picked the area and have responded to phone calls from the Parish Office and supported Community Litter Picking Events. OPC/EW

The whole of the Rec, and Car Park (7 bins) should remain the same, i.e. Mon. Weds. Fri. and Mon. Weds. Thurs. Fri. during the summer months.

It is hoped that the improvements being made at Hale Lane Rec. will give the surrounding residents an incentive to be responsible for the area. Maybe it will only be necessary to collect the bag from the bins situated in this Rec, Telston Park and Willow Park Green once a week, on a Monday. All the bins are emptied by SDC but in certain areas they need emptying more regularly and this is where Simon responds. It is felt that we must make a feature in the next Newsletter to get the whole community to 'Pick Up' regardless of whether it is their litter or not. There will be a Poster Competition in April, three categories, Infants, Juniors and Seniors. It is the Jubilee and Olympics Year and we must shine!

**Hale Lane Rec:** The work done during the winter with the Community and the North West Kent Countryside Partnership has already enhanced the area and the plans for new equipment are well in hand.

**Telston Park:** The bulbs planted in November are now showing through and should look good in a few weeks time. More work needs to be done to clear dead brambles, and prepare a site for a white barked Silver Birch to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

**Willow Park Green:** Bulbs planted in this area are growing well.

**Pond:** Brian Thomas and Norman Catt have today prepared the hole for the new willow tree. The tree has been funded by certain businesses in the High Street. Purple Loosestrife, Kingcups and Flowering Rush have also been planted and extra turf has been added to the islands. Sevenoaks Chronicle recorded the planting.

**Palace Approach:** The long border along the boundary wall of Pond House needs considerable attention. A voluntary working party will be arranged in the near future. EW

**Replacement Planters:** After much investigation into construction and pricing it is recommended that the new planters are purchased from Harrod Horticultural Ltd., Lowestoft. They will be delivered 'flat packed' and assembled at each site. A request has been made to Tarmac Ltd. to pay for them. Their reply is awaited. Maintenance will be carried out by volunteers. It is hoped that the 6 planters will display red,white and blue flowers this summer. The Council is to vote on this.

**Heritage Orchard:** English Heritage are in the final stages of granting permission for the trees to be planted in Palace Field. It is hoped that they will be planted before the end of March.

**Correspondence:**
'Open Space' magazine Spring 2012
South East Water: letter accompanying the non technical summary of their draft Drought Plan. They would like to receive any ideas or suggestions by 4TH APRIL
Grounds Maintenance Report for February 2012 from Brian Thomas.
Breakdown of Simon Still's Litter Picking work, for suggestions and ideas.
Copy of letter sent to Tarmac Ltd., requesting a grant towards replacement planters.

**Dates of Meetings:** All to be held at School House, 14th March Oxenhill Woods 10 a.m.
8th May 8.30 a.m., 10th July 8.30 a.m., 11th Sept. 8.30 a.m., 6th Nov. 8.30 a.m.