Present: Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward.

Letters have been sent to residents backing onto the Chalkpit re. dumping of garden rubbish and other items.
The committee feels that two litter bins are required at the station. One at the exit to the scout hut and the other at the exit from the Station car park to the Churchyard.
OPC be requested to approve this.

Contact has been made with Ray Froud about the abundance of Golden Rod in Oxenhill Meadow. He has been advised that constant cutting would be better than spraying. Committee feels removal of all flower heads before seeding would also help, but it would be a marathon voluntary community task to achieve this. He has also been advised about the stacks of timber that are being climbed on, notices should be attached pointing out the safety factors. It will be raised again at the next Oxenhill meeting in October.

‘Poo Flag’ exercise was carried out on 5th June at Hale Lane following complaints. Two notices will be put on the Play Area fence to ask dog owners to ‘pick up’ for their dogs.

Hardstanding is now in place, at long last, for the Bus Stop in Pilgrims’ Way West/Rye Lane.
The Committee wants to be involved with the choice of finger posts for the village.
We suggest that the Fete committee be asked for a contribution when the final decision is made.

The public tennis court gate is at present never locked. OPC should be aware of the loss of booking fees. A lot of rubbish is left there despite a litter bin being within yards of the court.
Could a notice be attached to the fence to put bottles etc. in the bin!

Parish notice boards still need attention. The committee has taken on the responsibility to check them for the removal of out of date posters and any outside advertising that is not relevant to Otford. There is little enough space for advertising village events.

Recreation Ground The C’tee visited the area around the tractor shed, it is a mess, particularly the cricket clubs grass mowings. Mary Evans will speak to a representative of the cricket club about this. It is appreciated that the compost bins provided by OPC some years back are now difficult to reach because of nettles. But area was cleared for them at the time and it was expected that a pathway to the bins would be maintained by them. It appears that the sight screen there is no longer used. Can at be stored somewhere else? Say between the hedge and the cricket nets, or disposed of? Discuss this area with Brian Thomas. Kill nettles? Butterfly habitat! Leave elderberry tree to mask old garage. Is this still used by cricket club? What is now stored in the tractor shed, can it still be effectively used? Area around dog bin needs clearing.
Can we put slippery paint on the youth shelter to stop youngsters climbing on the roof?

Boundary Fence to Car Park after much discussion over tree planting here, it was decided that there was insufficient room despite suggestions from some residents on species. The cricket outfield comes almost to the fence. We felt that the planting of a beech hedge (plain and copper) kept cut to the height of the wooden fence would be low maintenance, only requiring cutting once or twice a year, would not impede the long distance view. Would mask the volume of cars, and maintain a rural aspect. Cut down on litter and stop children climbing on the fence, or trees if they were planted. This we feel would lessen the blow of losing the lime tree in the car park. Is
there money available, should we ask for donations from residents, organisations, or fete committee? OPC to discuss and make any necessary resolution.

It was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting that tree work should be carried out on the three acacias - dead branches and blocking of telephone cables. The cherry near the cricket nets needs to be removed, it is dead. The white horse chestnut tree near ‘One Stop’ to be felled. It has suffered from canker and leaf miners for some years. The resident in Bubblestone House is prepared to pay for the removal of a double trunked sycamore tree abutting a magnificent horse chestnut on his boundary.

The C'tee then went to the North Downs Way footpath up the Mount where considerable brickwork is being laid, concern has been expressed by many residents, as well as users of the long-distance footpath.

On meeting the owner of Clan Cottage, he informed us that he has been in conversations with KCC and SDC over suitable surfacing of the path from Clan Cottage to Pilgrims' Way East for the past 18 months. The committee were informed that the materials being used and the drainage channels that have been installed have been approved by the two authorities. Concern was expressed by us that there was no longer a safety barrier, where the footpath joins the road. A warning sign is to be installed, replacing, we hope the insignificant temporary laminated paper notice attached to a post at the bottom of the path. It is hoped it will be prominent to give walkers, dog walkers and parents with children, sufficient time to be aware of the volume, size and speed of vehicles that use Pilgrims' Way East day and night.

Correspondence:
Further to KCC letter re vegetation clearance on public rights of way, Measurements have been recorded of the most used paths to receive more cuts if the additional meterage allows. KCC have agreed siting and size of planters at the Parade. OPC now to place the order. Kent Downs Heritage Lottery submission for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership received. We await results, probably in October. Letter from a resident re. litter at the Cemetery. Charmain Marsh will approach McDonalds for daily clearance if at all possible. A check should be made by OPC for other unsightly rubbish to be removed. E-mail received about Conservation Volunteer Tree Planting sites. It was felt we have enough sites in the village. Care and maintenance of these are enough for OPC to cope with.

Next Meeting - 17th September at 8.30 am. N.B. Apologies from Elizabeth Ward. Please can one or two attend the TARMAC site meeting at 4.30 pm. On 10th Sept. It is a very interesting site. Formal discussion will take place in the Town Council Offices in Bradbourne Road at 6pm. tea and biscuits are served. It usually lasts an hour.

OXENHILL meeting 10 am. on 2nd October at the bottom of Tudor Drive for a walkabout, followed by discussion and recommendations at the home of Mary Evans in Tudor Crescent.

WORKING PARTY 9.30 am. at Telston Park on 12th October.

A further voluntary working party will be needed to work on the long border at Palace Approach, abutting the brick wall of Pond House. Date to be advised.

Elizabeth Ward, Chairman of Environment Committee.