Report of Environment Committee 1st April 2014. Starting at 8.00 a.m. in the Recreation Ground for a Dog Fouling ‘Flagging’ Event followed by the rest of the April Agenda.

The ‘Flagging’ was aided by the SDC Dog Warden, our Community Warden, Parish Clerk and Assistant Parish Clerk, a parishioner and the four members of the committee. 16 ‘foulings’ were removed and their positions marked.

The Committee then met in School House. (Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh and Elizabeth Ward (Chairman).

There were no apologies and no member of the public attended.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

OXENHILL WOODS – The area is slowly drying out. There is a considerable amount of garden rubbish dumped at the Kemsing end. Also a TV etc. ask KPC if they would investigate and get it tidied up.

CHALKPIT – Brian Thomas to be asked if a date has been arranged with NWKCV for their assistance in cutting the ivy back on many of the trees.

LITTER PICKING, PWE, SR48/9 and CHALKPIT – Still continuing.

PWE TO GULLIVER’S - It has been noted that KCC are to remove one of the sycamore trees on the wide verge. It is hoped that the grass will not be mown for a few more weeks as the daffodils need another 3 weeks to dieback, to ensure flowers next year.

DUCK HOUSE and POND – The Duck house is being renewed by Mr Catt. At present there is considerable scum on the surface. Brian Thomas is aware. The surrounding grass has been very well cut. Down to Earth has carried out a tree inspection of the two willows.

GRAVEYARD – OPC will continue to mow the grass. Concern was expressed over a possible entrance to the area from a property in Colet’s Orchard.

PALACE APPROACH - As the Forsythia was in full flower it was decided to delay the working party on 17th March and instead work was carried out to clear the western side of School House up to the garden gate.- Mission accomplished.

RECREATION GROUND – Prior to this meeting a search was made of the whole recreation ground for dog fouling, 16 were removed and grass marked with fluorescent spray. Another un-announced check will be made.

PALACE PARK WOOD – Is at long last drying out. The entrance at the kissing gate on the eastern boundary has suffered greatly. It is VERY difficult to walk there, can something be done to level it out? A new Woodland Trust Steward has been appointed, contact will be made to arrange a meeting with her.

TELSTON PARK – The conifer debris has been removed but a vehicle was brought onto the site which has caused deep track marks on the footpath due to the wet ground. This will have to be rectified, as the path is used by a number of residents. The large trunk of elderberry was still there as were considerable branches to the left of the entrance from Telston Lane, a further check will be made.
HALE LANE REC – The Heritage Orchard is growing well. The footpath entrance at the NW corner of the area has some damage to the fence and the hedging wants cutting back. A dog fouling check could also be carried out.

PLANTERS – It is hoped there will be plenty of red flowers in remembrance of WW1.

NATURE EVENT 22ND JUNE – Preparation in hand.

WORKING PARTY – WEDNESDAY 23rd APRIL at 9.30 a.m. Palace Approach Border.

CORRESPONDENCE:
‘Open Space’ Spring Newsletter received, for perusal.
Email - from J Edwards-Winser for information, re. assistant for SDC Dog Warden as lack of authority to reprimand miscreants. Reply awaited.
Email - from OPC to SDC re. Tree cutting in the Green Belt. Reply received. The Green Belt has no restrictions on tree felling. TPO’s do, as does conservation areas. Wooded areas will also require a Felling Licence or a Woodland Grant Scheme if more than 5 cubic metres of timber are to be felled in any calendar quarter.
Report from Down to Earth – Health and Condition Inspection Report C5731, on six specimen trees owned by the Parish Council, located around the village.
Extensive Email from Rick Bayne re. Darent Valley Landscape Partnership meeting and application for HLF.

Cllr. Elizabeth Ward, 9th April 2014