Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tues. 4th Nov 2014 at 10 a.m. in School House.
Present – Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward (Chair) and co opted, Mrs.Irene Roy.
Apologies. – Mary Evans.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
There were no declarations of interest.

Oxenhill Woods. – There is still a pile of dumped garden rubbish to be removed from an area around the main information board opposite the entrance from Tudor Drive. Sumachs need to be removed, and if possible the roots treated to stop future growth. RF/SDC

Chalkpit Area – Following the Scout Firework and Bonfire event held on 1st Nov. this area will be checked sometime this week. EW

Recreation Ground – Recommend that the main entrance receives attention with new plastic mesh and some sort of gravel/roadstone foundation to inhibit waterlogging, also the area in the youth shelter. REC. Ctee/OPC

Palace Park Wood – EW met the new Woodland Trust Steward (Jean Frame) on 31st Oct. And both walked the site. JF had a new management plan (we should have received a copy). JF will make sure one is sent to OPC. Some thinning of the trees is due to take place. The same contractor (Sovereign) will continue to cut the rides. We hope there will be three cuts a year. It was pointed out that under the original agreement the Woodland Trust were responsible for keeping the ditches clear. These were in need of attention. WT

Village Green – Has been well managed. The committee has been asked to arrange a working Party, to weed the border, on the left hand side of the path to church car park/Palace Tower. This is to be arranged. The shrub at the end of Palace Approach still needs severe pruning. C’ttee

Pond – There are a variety of water birds enjoying the area. Requests have been received to severely reduce the amount of flowering sedge. This will be discussed with our contractor. also a request has been made to paint the wooden bollards white to aid visibility. BT/OPC

Planters – One of the planters at the Parade is being funded by One Stop for the next three years. They have also donated Christmas lights for this area. A letter of thanks will be sent. The Brownies have replanted at the Pharmacy. The second planter opposite the Post Office will be weeded and replanted shortly. Mrs Roy has offered numerous snowdrops to be planted next Spring at the gateways. Bulbs have been purchased to enhance the ‘gateways’ on A225. C’tee.

Expenditure and Future Dates –Except for the ongoing expenses it is difficult to assess, possibly, the purchase of 4 trees to replace those vandalised at Hale Lane. This may be averted by application to the Free Trees Scheme. This will be investigated. Once the groundwork of the front garden of the Parish Office is completed there will be the purchase of plants to fill a small border. The suggested dates for committee meetings were accepted. C’ttee/OPC

Correspondence:
Email – regarding the continuation of unpleasant ill-timed bonfires from a local business.OPC/SDC
Email – NW Kent Offer of trees under Free Tree Scheme. To be investigated see above. EW

Working Parties – T.B.A. Next Meeting Tues. 2nd DEC. 8.30 a.m. At School House.