

Goudhurst Parish Council



BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Minutes of a Meeting held on 24 August 2020 at 19.30 via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Craig Broom (Chairman), David Boniface, Antony Harris, David Knight, Guy Sutton and Peter Wood.
Ed Bates – advisor to the Committee.

Apologies: Cllr Chris Ditton (Working).

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Questions and Statements from the Public: There were none.

4. Goals and Objectives

Following the merging of the Business and Communications and Traffic and Parking Committees, as agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 10 August 2020, Cllr Craig Broom shared an updated statement of goals and objectives for the new committee. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that this be accepted as the goals and objectives of the new committee.

5. Review of activities & initiatives

5.1 Communications

It was agreed that a Parish Newsletter/ key Parish Council information, including information from Parish Council Committees should be distributed to as many Parishioners as possible via email. It was **agreed** that Cllrs Antony Harris and David Knight would email their contacts to ask them to join the Parish Council mailing list. It was **noted** that an ‘unsubscribe button needed to be included on all mail list emails. **Action AH, DK**

It was **agreed** that a list of businesses in the Parish should be published on the website in the form of a directory.

5.2 Business engagement

It was **agreed** that a further meeting should be held. Cllr Harris will visit businesses to invite them to the meeting, Clerks to set up Zoom meeting. **Action: AH, Clerks**

5.3 Destination Goudhurst – Initiatives

It was **agreed** that before a list of potential initiatives could be presented to residents and businesses on the High Street, the feasibility of schemes such as Christmas lights and flowers needs to be established. Ed Bates agreed to take on this project. **Action: EB**

It was **noted** that the Friends of St Mary’s will not be holding their usual annual Christmas shopping event in the church this year but were keen to host a smaller event outside, possibly ion the Plain with refreshments being served from the Parish Hall.

5.4 Parking

It was **noted** that with many more people now working from home, some cars remained parked on village roads all day, differing from the parking needs identified in the survey carried out in early 2020.

The need for additional parking in the village, potential sites and whether the Council would be willing to fund such a project were discussed and it was agreed that Cllrs Antony Harris, Craig Broom, David Boniface and advisor Ed Bates would investigate options and report back to the Committee with ‘pros and cons’ for the various options. **Action: AH, CB, DB, EB.**

5.5 Village Infrastructure

Parish Hall – The Committee discussed the current status of the Parish Hall and its charitable aims. It was **agreed** that cooperation with the Parish Hall committee would be important as part of the ‘Destination Goudhurst’ initiative. It was **noted** that Cllr Antony Harris has been appointed to the Parish Hall Committee as the Council’s representative along with Cllr Alan Foster. It was **agreed** that Clerks, will confirm the role of the Parish Council as defined in the Parish Hall trust deeds.

Action: Clerks

It was **noted** that the Vine was for sale as a ‘going concern’ and that there had been interest in the business. It was further **noted** that the Green Cross Inn has been on the market since before the COVID lockdown but had not yet been sold – the current owner is not planning to reopen.

Next meeting: Monday 21 September 2020, 7.30pm via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

Claire Reed
Assistant Clerk