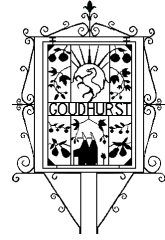


Goudhurst Parish Council



BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE **Minutes of a Meeting held on 16 November 2020 at 19.30 via Zoom**

Present: Cllrs Craig Broom (Chairman), David Boniface, Chris Ditton, Antony Harris, David Knight, Barry Noakes and Guy Sutton. Mr Ed Bates – advisor to the Committee. Claire Reed as Clerk.

Apologies: Peter Wood (unwell).

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Questions and Statements from the Public: There were none.

2. Update on Open Reach Fibre Broadband project

Cllr David Knight briefed the Committee on the current situation. The Goudhurst demand led scheme is awaiting approval from the DCMS which is expected in December 2020.

The Kilndown project to provide fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) needs to be signed by a 'legal entity' on behalf of the community. Clerk has sought advice from KALC and reported that, without the General Power of Competency, GPC do not have the power to sign the contract. It was **noted** that Cllr David Knight had met with William Benson at TWBC and also Elisabeth Harrison from KCC – unfortunately KCC are not able to sign the contract as there is a conflict of interests owing to KCC offering 'top-up' vouchers. It was **agreed** to investigate the creation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) to sign the contract and the legality of GPC being a Corporate Director. **Action: Clerk**

3. Destination Goudhurst.

It was **agreed** that the project should be split into three distinct groups each with a sub-group. These are; Continuous Improvement, Business as Usual and Long Term Strategic Improvements. Continuous Improvement - Small short term improvements to our community such as umbrellas, tables, signage, website and flyers.

Business as Usual - Rhythm & Continuity promoting activities in Goudhurst; markets, fayres, one-off and repeat activities.

Long Term Strategic – Improvements; Car parking, infrastructure renewal, large projects.

It was **agreed** that there needs to be engagement with the community, through the new e-newsletter (and other media) with the opportunity for feedback and input of ideas. It was further **agreed** that there needs to be leadership for each of the groups and that the Business & Communications Committee would lead on the Long Term Strategic Improvements group.

It was agreed that provision needed to be made in the 2021-22 budget for 'Business as Usual'.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Claire Reed
Clerk