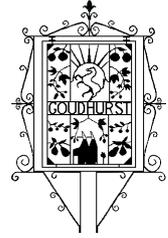


Goudhurst Parish Council



BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE **Minutes of a Meeting held on 12 January 2021 at 19.30 via Zoom**

Present: Cllrs Craig Broom (Chairman), David Boniface, Antony Harris, David Knight, Barry Noakes and Guy Sutton. Anthony Farnfield as Clerk as Clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs Chris Ditton (away on business) and Peter Wood (unwell).

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Questions and Statements from the Public: There were none.

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**

Structuring Destination Goudhurst.

The discussion centred on Plans for a Farmers Market. It was **agreed** that the Committee would focus initially on discussing the outline plans with:

- The Goudhurst retailers,
- The Friends of St Mary's (Mrs Pam Stubbs)
- Goudhurst Social Club (Shiona Gardiner)
- Taywell Farm Shop (Mr Melvyn Streek)
- Mr Ed Bates
- Mrs Gill Wallis-Hosken

It was **agreed** that the date and place of the proposed Farmers Market should not in any way outdo the 2021 Goudhurst Fete. **Action:** The Committee Chairman supported by the Committee members.

Deputy Clerk **noted** that Action with Communities in Rural Kent (AwCiRK) has a number of Advisers available to assist Town and Parish Councils. Carl Adams is the Rural & Social Enterprise Officer.

Parking and Associated Issues.

It was **agreed** that Council will approach the ‘new’ owner of the Old Parsonage site with a view to exploring an agreement whereby the Parish Council could obtain a small area of the site for public parking. **Action:** Cllr Antony Harris.

It was **agreed** that Council will approach the absentee owner of the woodland to the east of the Mary Day’s garages to explore the possibility of Council taking ownership of part of that woodland. The main purpose would be to establish further car parking space.

The matter of the Mary Days garages. It was noted that Town & Country Housing had postponed their intention to sell a certain number of them at auction. Council has an option until March 2021 to decide whether to purchase them or not.

Cllr Chris Ditton is to check the gradient of the land behind the Mary Days garages.

The Goudhurst and Goudhurst Parish Council Newsletter.

It was agreed that:

- There will be a regular focus on local businesses in the Newsletter,
- Each Newsletter will be numbered,
- The Newsletter should say that Claire is the Editor,
- A Council Member should be interviewed for each future issue,
- The columns need to be adjusted as they are said to go out of alignment when printed.
- Colin Willis is to be invited to highlight plans for the future of GADS
- Bob Alden-Smith might be invited to be interviewed on Goudhurst + Kilndown U3A

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Anthony Farnfield Deputy Clerk