

# Goudhurst Parish Council



## HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

### Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on 27 October 2020 via Zoom

**Present:** Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Alan Foster, Antony Harris and Guy Sutton. Ted Bennett and Colin Wilson (advisors), and two members of the public.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Peter Wood.
2. Declarations of Interest: None.
3. Questions from the public and press: There were none.

#### *4. Update on A21 traffic.*

It was **noted** that Rhiannon Peppa (Head of Kent Roads Policing) had been replaced by Elena Hall. It was further **noted** that there has been an increase in delivery vans and vehicles turning into and emerging from driveways on the A21; although potentially slowing the traffic, this also increases the risk of collisions. It was **agreed** that Ted Bennet will continue to monitor the frequency of collisions and will 'keep in touch' with the senior officer from Highways England, who had agreed to meet with us once the pandemic is over, and Greg Clark MP.

#### *5. Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG)*

*Lorry Watch* - An update to the Country Eye app allows residents to submit photos of large HGVs blocking the High Street. It was **agreed** that the effectiveness of the app could be measured by comparing the number of 5 and 6 axle vehicles recorded on a previous traffic survey on Cranbrook Road with data collected from a new survey on the A262 in Iden Green once there have been a substantial number of submissions via the app.

Colin Wilson reported on a new Speed watch initiative using a mobile phone based system. It was proposed that volunteers would take up positions on various roads where speeding was recognised as a problem and the new speed devices would automatically send data collected to the police. The police would then write to the owner of the vehicle.

#### *6. Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) – Cranbrook Road Crossing*

Helen Sampson reported that a petition asking for a lower speed limit and crossing for improved safety and access to Goudhurst Primary School had collected approximately 260 signatures and will be sent to Greg Clark MP. The Chairman **agreed** that the Parish Council would support this petition as well as other GTAG activities. It was **noted** that previously a KCC engineer has advised that a lack of a standing area on the north side of Cranbrook Road, at the junction with Beresford Road, would make the introduction of a formal crossing with lights (e.g. Pelican crossing or similar) unlikely. However, this was not fully investigated and it was **agreed** that the Chairman of Highways Committee would take this up with KCC.

#### *7. Proposed walking route along the verge of Station Road*

The Chairman of the Highways Committee is liaising with David Munn, Public Rights of Way & Access Service at KCC, regarding the viability of a walking route along Station Road. A number of questions have been raised which need to be discussed with Kent Highways. It was **agreed** that the Chairman would arrange a meeting/ liaison with Kent Highways. There is interest in the project from residents around the Green Cross Inn, the Hop Pickers Line Group and those wishing to link with the

PROW network. It was **agreed** that an alternative quote for the establishment of the hogging path should be sought as the quotation received for approximately £27,000 was not viable.

#### *8. SID data analysis*

Data was shared with members and advisors prior to the meeting. The Chairman explained that the SID had been set up on two occasions at each of the five locations. Several findings were immediately apparent; firstly, traffic, as expected, was much less during the first lockdown earlier in 2020 and as vehicle frequencies were far lower, the speeds were markedly higher. Secondly, a large proportion of vehicles were exceeding the 30mph speed limit. Data gathered on Cranbrook Road gives strong weight to the need for measures to slow and calm the traffic. It was **agreed** that GTAG would ask Linsey Roberts, Head teacher of Goudhurst Primary School, to write a letter on behalf of the school asking for a 20mph speed limit and a crossing. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council would write a similar letter of support and Cllr Antony Harris offered to contact Charles Mackonochie, KALC representative on TWBC Transport Board, for advice.

#### *9. Water leaks on Highways*

There is a leak at the junction of Station Road/ Blue Coats Lane and water has been flowing down and across Station Road towards the Green Cross Inn. This leak has been reported. *Post meeting note – this leak has now been repaired.* There is a further leak from behind Lock and Key Cottage on to, and down Jarvis Lane as far as The Apple Store (and beyond). The Chairman reported that his attempts to get this leak dealt with by South East Water had come to nothing. This matter was to be passed on to the Clerks to take forward in a more systematic way.

#### *10. Preparation for snow and ice*

GPC have been offered a one tonne bag of salt and grit. Clerks are working to find a location for storing this and also a contractor who would be willing to spread the salt and grit on roads not covered by KCC Highways Dept. Clerk **agreed** to distribute maps showing the routes in the area that would be covered either as priority or as secondary. It was **agreed** that Committee members would suggest routes that were likely to need special attention in winter weather.

Date of next Virtual Highways Meeting: Tuesday 15 December 2020, 7.30pm Via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.