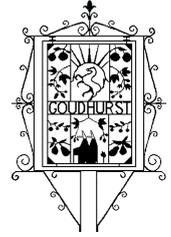


Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on 15 December 2020 via Zoom

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Alan Foster, Antony Harris and Guy Sutton.
Ted Bennett, Helen Sampson and Colin Wilson as advisors. 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 a letter had been received by Ted Bennett from Baroness Vere of Norbiton, Minister for Roads, Buses and Places. She had written to the Members of Parliament for the A21 between Tunbridge Wells and Hastings to let them know that work to improve the safety, to add cycle lanes, and make various improvements that had been planned to run after 2025 will now aim to be completed by 2025 following negotiations which she had had with the Government and Highways England.

Mr Bennett was not sure that her reference to Scotney Castle would include the section of the A21 road we are concerned about. It has been suggested to him by Peter Philips of Highways England that our section between the Scotney Castle roundabout and the T & J Motel would not be included.

Greg Clerk wrote that the next step would be to convene a meeting to establish precisely what is proposed and to ensure that the measures proposed are satisfactory. We have to assume that this meeting will be after the COVID pandemic. After some discussion it was agreed that GPC would write to Greg Clark to confirm that we are looking forward to the meeting and that we would be intending to take part in discussions about the problems of speeding traffic and other dangers of the section of road through Goudhurst Parish near Bewl Water. **Action: Cllr David Boniface**

5. Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG)- Traffic Speed in North Road, Goudhurst and a proposed 20 mph speed limit in Goudhurst High Street.

It was **noted** that Council had received an e-mail from a resident of many years' standing who lives in North Rd. He raised issues about the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which he claims has little or no effect on reducing the speed of the traffic which moves at speeds in excess of 30 mph. Furthermore, neither Kent Highways or the Police are interested in the data gathered from the SID. Nothing is being done. Traffic has increased dramatically in Goudhurst. In the High Street he finds that he has to walk in the road due to vehicles parked on the 'shared areas' thus putting him at risk. The complainant pointed out that Cranbrook has a 20 mph limit: why cannot Goudhurst have likewise. It was **noted** that Cllr Boniface responded by pointing out that it is very difficult to make progress on these issues. **Action: Cllr David Boniface will add the**

20 mph limit at Goudhurst project to the Kent Highways HIP (Highways Improvement Plan).

Complaint about HGVs of the company Ardula using North Road Goudhurst.

A local resident who lives in North Road claims that large trucks from this company travel up and down North Road frequently and at speed. It seems the trucks are going to and from Wadhurst. Mr Colin Wilson (GTAG) plans to meet the resident to interest him in becoming a volunteer to use the lorry/speed apps. **Action: Mr Colin Wilson.**

Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) – Road markings to guide HGVs

Mr Colin Wilson (Chairman GTAG) reported that GTAG had written to Kent Highways with a request to put road markings on the highway at the top of the High St to guide HGVs around the tight corner. The response had been that this was not permissible and could not be done.

Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) – Additional signs to deter HGVs at Goudhurst.

Mr Colin Wilson reported that GTAG has learned that Kent Highways are working with Highways England to introduce additional ‘Unsuitable for HGVs’ signs on the A21. Mr Wilson will report as and when he receives further news on this.

6. Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) – Cranbrook Road Crossing by Beresford Rd.

It was noted that GTAG had sent a 170 signatory petition to a member of the KCC Highways and Transport Committee. A Highways engineer had reported that the options for a crossing on the north side of Cranbrook Road are very limited as there is not a sufficiently large standing area for pedestrians. As to the possibility of a 20 mph speed limit in that area, Kent Highways had indicated it could be looked into. It might require traffic calming and perhaps street lights. It was **noted** that the Goudhurst and Kilndown CE Primary School is very interested in this matter and that County Cllr Sean Holden should be involved. **Action: Cllr David Boniface with GTAG.**

New HGV problems at Goudhurst?

It was **noted** that the Government is considering licensing longer and heavier HGVs that will involve an increase in weight from 44 to 48 tonnes and the trailer length to be increased from 13.6m to 15.6m.

10. Preparation for Winter weather

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 23 February 2020, 7.30pm Via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.