

Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on 23 February 2021 via Zoom

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Alan Foster, Antony Harris and Guy Sutton.
Ted Bennett(A21), Helen Sampson (GTAG), Paul Green (Market Place), Matthew Rose (B2079/B2084 junction and Peter Raycraft (B2079/B2084) as advisors.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Peter Wood, a member of Goudhurst Parish Council and member of this committee, died earlier this month. A tribute to Peter for his work on the Parish Council has been published in the Parish Magazine.,

Declarations of Interest: None.

Questions from the public and press: There were none.

Update on A21 traffic.

It was **noted** that the Parish Council had written to Greg Clark MP on 27 January 2021 about the current and future plans for the A21 (much previous correspondence refers). He had replied confirming that he will be attending a forthcoming meeting with all the A21 constituency MPs and Highways England. It is his intention to hold a meeting with local stakeholders after his meeting with Highways England. It was **noted** that Mr Bennett had sent Greg Clark the list of issues that local residents believe need to be addressed by Highways England on the A21 stretch through Goudhurst Parish.

Flooding at the junction of Rosemary Lane and A21

Council had received a message from a local resident with photos about this recent flooding of the Highway at this junction. It was **agreed** to ask the Clerk to contact Kent Highways (responsible for Rosemary Lane) and Highways England (responsible for A21) for a remedy.

Kent Highways Vision Zero Consultation. A supporting paper was the section of the KCC draft most relevant to Goudhurst. The Committee considered a few pointers to highlight areas of problems which are particularly relevant to Goudhurst.

- Pressing the government to reduce the national default 60 mph speed limit on single carriageway rural roads. (Section 3.4)
- Establish a Safer Walking and Cycling program to identify where the demand for more walking and cycling is greatest and what interventions are required to support this safely (section 3.6)
- Proposal to move away from the exclusive use of the “cluster-site” approach. Currently this limits KCC attention to places where there has been a cluster of 4+ collisions involving injury or death within a 50m diameter. (section 3.7)
- Building safer routes to schools. (Section 3.8).
- Seek ways to allow expansion of the deployment of speed cameras (section 4.2)
- Explore the opportunity to pilot a route-based approach for average speed cameras, for example between the entry to and exit from a village. (section 4.2)
- Community Speed Watch - Enforcement of speed limits also includes community speed watch, where members of the public go out with police officers to measure speeds. We will support this approach. (section 4.2)

- 20 mph limits - Kent County Council will subsequently consider proposals from Town, District and Parish councils to introduce lower speed limits in urban areas and villages where there is an identified demand for safer travel for vulnerable road users. (section 4.3)

Chairman asked the Committee and Advisers to read this and submit brief notes of what they think are good and what is not so good. Cllr David Boniface will then draft a response on behalf of Goudhurst Parish Council. Responses to the KCC Consultation have to be submitted by 15th March. **Action: Cllrs and Advisers.**

Cranbrook Road: Traffic Calming with a crossing at the A262/Beresford Road junction.

It was **noted** that Council had written on 08 February 2021 to Kent Highways on behalf of GTAG and Goudhurst & Kilndown C of E Primary School requesting a 20 mph flashing sign coupled with a pedestrian crossing for the school children on the busy Cranbrook Road. This item is now included on the Goudhurst Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) and therefore will be an item on the Agenda for the next Parish Council/Kent Highways liaison meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

B2079 North Road junction with B2084 Chequers Road: Traffic calming and safety.

Mr Rose and Mr Raycraft attended this meeting to represent a number of local residents in this area. Issues include:

- Excessive speed on B2079 North Road in both directions;
- Southbound traffic taking the curve into B2084 Chequers Road without reducing speed;
- Problems for drivers at the Give Way lines into North Road from Chequers Rd and Lidwells Lane;
- Recent tendency for HGVs causing delays when exiting Chequers Rd and turning left in North Road at an acute angle (to avoid Goudhurst High St?);
- Dangerous situations at the sharp and narrow bend on Chequers Rd with HGVs.

It was **noted** that these items are included in the Goudhurst Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) and the will be Agenda items for Council's next meeting with Kent Highways planned for March 2021. **Action: The Clerk.**

B2079 North Road: Beware pedestrians and children in the road signs at Brandfold Tennis Club.

It was **noted** that this project has been outstanding for 2 years but Kent Highways has now informed Council that they are unable to find suitable places to install the signs. Council has asked for the reasons for this decision and a site meeting.

Winter weather conditions. It was **agreed** to put a note in the Parish Magazine and in the Council's e-newsletter asking for comments from local residents on how effective the local procedures were for dealing with the February snow and ice conditions.

Blue signs 'Unsuitable for Long Vehicles, Council understands from Mr Colin Wilson's (GTAG) report to this committee's meeting of 15 December 2020 that Highways England are going to re-word the 'Unsuitable for Long Vehicles at Goudhurst' signs near to the junction of A21 and A262. Mr Wilson will report when he has further news about this.

The status of Beresford Road, Goudhurst. Chairman Highways Committee will investigate the legal status of Beresford Road which is known to be a private road.

The meeting closed at