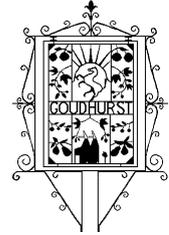


Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on 27 April 2021 via Zoom

1. 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.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

3. Questions from the public and press: There were none.

4. A21 Update

Mr Ted Bennett reported that the only new development since the last meeting was an update on Highways England A21 Safety Package webpages on the 9th April. This states that HE has now reviewed 10 years of safety data which has helped them refine their proposals, so there's a tangible benefit for road users. It was **agreed** that, as Greg Clark MP has been Council's representative at the HE meetings, he needs to be asked how these refined proposals affect the section of the A21 passing through the Parish and also how the new proposals will make the road safer for residents. It was **noted** that Committee members had expected to meet with Greg Clark, MP to learn details of the Highways England safety improvements. It was agreed that a follow-up email would be sent. **Action: DB and Clerk**

4.1. Update on the flooding at the junction with Rosemary Lane.

Clerk reported that she had followed up with Kent County Council (KCC) and Highways England (HE) and it appears that KCC are responsible for this aspect of the drainage. Clerk received an email dated 22nd April 2021 from KCC Engineer Mark Hardcastle reporting that KCC had carried out a full soakaway cleanse and CCTV survey and will contact Clerk again when he has received all the relevant reports.

5. KCC Vision Zero Consultation

5.1. To note the response from GPC

Cllr Boniface reported that he had submitted a response on behalf of GPC incorporating suggested comments from 3 other members of this committee and advisors. The draft Vision Zero policy aims to focus KCC efforts on reducing to zero the number of deaths on Kent roads over a 50-year period. The Committee Chairman, while generally supportive in his responses, commented that perhaps a better balance of effort could be obtained if numbers of injury collisions and non-injury collisions, which tended to take place on lower speed roads, retained a reasonable degree of priority.

5.2. To discuss and make a decision on how data on collisions and crashes will be collected and recorded.

It was **noted** that Cllr Guy Sutton had initiated a review of sources of data on collisions and crashes, with or without injury, and near misses, in Goudhurst parish. This has led to the Committee obtaining good data on injury collisions. It was further **noted** that TWBC are now collecting data on near misses. There is still a of lack data on non-injury collisions which are particularly significant in Goudhurst. Maps marking injury collisions were shared and showed notable frequency of injury collisions in the Green Cross Inn/Market Place area and on the right-angle bend on Chequers Road. Over the five years 2016 – 2020 there have been 73 injury collisions in Goudhurst Parish not counting those on the A21.

6. GTAG

No representatives attended from GTAG to provide an update on Lorry Watch. However, Cllr David Boniface reported that a Speed Watch training course was being arranged for volunteers later in May. It was reported that police speed checks took place near the Primary School on 25th March 2021. Clerk will liaise with PCSO Simon Fuller regarding future speed checks. **Action: Clerk**

7. HGVs in Goudhurst

7.1. To note Sean Holden's article in Cranbrook's Parish Cake magazine

Councillors **noted** an article by Kent County Cllr Sean Holden's in the Cranbrook Parish Cake magazine which detailed his campaign to keep HGVs out of people's lives. A copy of the article had been distributed to Committee members prior to the meeting.

7.2. To note recent damage to the Church wall and ongoing discussions to find a permanent solution.

It was **noted** that a meeting of key individuals from St Mary's Church, the Diocese of Canterbury, the Parish Council, TWBC, KCC and Historic England had taken place on 22nd March. Cllr Craig Broom and the Clerk attended on behalf of GPC. The meeting was to discuss a proposed redesign of the wall to prevent continued damage. A final decision was not reached but further drawings for a suggested lowered wall were requested. Cllr Sean Holden wrote to Chris Koningen (KCC Highways) on 28th March making the case that it would make more sense to remove the lorries than to modify the wall. Clerk reported that the driver of the HGV responsible for the recent damage had stopped and full details of the vehicle and its owner are known. The Committee strongly recommended that the owner be billed, by the PCC, for a significant proportion of the repair costs. A figure of £3500 was suggested. The rationale for this being that it would serve as a warning to all HGV drivers to seek alternative routes avoiding Goudhurst High Street. **Action: Clerk**

8. KCC Parish Charger Project – Goudhurst Electric Vehicle charge points

Cllr David Boniface summarised the background to the existing system which meant that electricity would be provided free to users of the two charge points for at least the first year to encourage visits to Goudhurst by owners of electric cars. The electricity bill had risen from approximately £800 in the first year to £1800 in the second year. The Highways Committee is now investigating options for introducing user charging. There is a standard package being rolled out to villages in Kent which installs two charging units with a payment-for-use system based on a

mobile phone app. It was suggested that a quote be obtained from 'Connected Kerb' who are the contractors implementing the roll-out on behalf of KCC.

Cllr David Knight reported that GPC's Tesla socket could be replaced by a new design of Tesla charging unit expected to be available later this year. It was **agreed** that Cllr David Knight should approach Tesla to establish the cost of replacing the existing units.

Action: Cllr Knight.

9. Goudhurst KCC Highways Improvement Plan version 5

(a) Meeting with Kent Highways

It was noted that the date of the meeting with KCC had slipped from March to May. Clerk is not able to attend the original date offered and was asked to negotiate a new date as soon as convenient. **Action: Clerk**

(b) Student Survey

Cllr David Boniface has provided information from Goudhurst traffic surveys to a Cranbrook School student. It was **noted** that the student has created a traffic opinion survey on Facebook. The Committee was interested to learn that the survey included a question on residents' degree of support for a by-pass.

(c) The A262 revised signage at Market Place development (HIP item 4)

This has been agreed with KCC. However, the newly obtained injury/crash data suggests that more traffic calming measures might be appropriate in this location.

(d) The 'Pedestrians in Road' sign on North Road near to Goudhurst Tennis Club (HIP item 6)

Cllr David Boniface had determined that the 2.3m verge before the Goudhurst Tennis Club area was owned by KCC. KCC's stated inability to find a suitable location for the "Pedestrians in Road" sign seems likely to be due to their unwillingness to fulfil their obligation to remove the vegetation from the verge! Helpfully, Goudhurst Tennis Club has agreed to clear the vegetation.

(e) The junction of the B2079 North Road and the B2084 Chequers Rd (HIP item 7)

At the last Highways meeting several residents from this locality attended to emphasise the need for safety measures.

(f) Traffic calming on Cranbrook Rd near the Primary School (HIP items 8 & 10)

The Committee has previously recommended a part-time 20 mph speed limit at School opening and closing times operated by an illuminated sign following the petition by GTAG and the School.

10. Update from Hop Pickers Heritage Group

It was noted that a new sign had been placed on the Green in Horsmonden.

The meeting closed at 20.45