

Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 29 June 2021 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Alan Foster, Antony Harris, David Knight and Guy Sutton. Ted Bennett (A21), Helen Sampson (GTAG) and Paul Green (Market Place) as advisors. Sarah Power, resident.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Alison Webster (Social Club meeting).

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

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

4. HGVs moving through Goudhurst Village.

Sarah Power of Church Cottage, described her experiences which have included HGV bumpers landing on her doorstep, witnessing damage to the church wall, poor driver behaviour, the use of abusive language and witnessing damage to a vehicle which was hit by a HGV at the top of the High Street. Mrs Power expressed concern for the safety of her family and property.

The Committee discussed possible measures to deter HGVs from travelling through Goudhurst Village along the A262. It was **noted** that as an A road, Kent Highways have only limited power to place a weight or other restrictions on the road. It was **agreed** to arrange a meeting with representatives of St Mary's PCC to set out the Council's position on attempting to recoup the cost of repairs from the haulier who damaged the Church Wall and thus deter other HGV operators from using the route. **Action: Clerk**

It was **agreed** to request that the Amenities Committee investigate the feasibility of installing a CCTV camera at the top of the High Street focussed on the wall and sharp corner. **Action: Clerk, Amenities Committee.**

It was **agreed** to write to County Cllr Sean Holden asking for an update on KCC's plan to restrict HGV movements in the county. **Action: Cllr David Boniface, Clerk.** It was further **agreed** to write to Kent Highways to state that the position is becoming intolerable and that the status quo is not acceptable, and asking what they suggest is now the way forward. **Action: Cllr David Boniface and Clerk.**

5. A21 Update

It was **noted** that Parish Councillors had been invited by Highways England to a meeting to discuss the proposed safety improvements on the A21. The Clerk has accepted the invitation on behalf of members. The meeting is expected to take place in August 2021. It was **agreed** to write to Highways England requesting clarification on what improvements are being considered for the

section between the Scotney roundabout and Stonecrouch. It was further **agreed** to accept the offer of a meeting from Peter Philips (Highways England). **Action: Clerk**

It was **agreed** to write to Greg Clark MP requesting a date for the previously agreed to meeting to discuss the proposed A21 safety improvements. **Action: Cllr David Boniface and Ted Bennett and Clerk.**

6. Goudhurst EV Charge points

It was **noted** that Cllr Boniface had contacted Connected Kerb, KCC's electric charge point supplier, for a quotation to change the current points in Goudhurst to those that charge for the electricity used. He is awaiting a response. Cllr David Knight reported that the Tesla 'paid for' units will not be available in the UK for some time. It was **agreed** that Clerk should check the terms of the Tesla supply contract to ensure the units can be switched over without penalty. **Action: Clerk**

7. Update on the Parish Highways Improvement Plan

It was **noted** that following the HIP meeting with Kent Highways in May, Highways had done very little to move the agreed actions forward other than to discuss the plans with Julian Cook the Tunbridge Wells District Manager for KCC. Unfortunately, Julian has raised a number of issues with the proposals, mostly around maintenance.

A262 at Market Place

It was **agreed** to contact Julian Cook to request that the missing cats' eyes on the A262 between Blue Coat Lane and the Green Cross Inn be replaced. **Action: Clerk**

Traffic Calming on Cranbrook Road near to the junction with Beaman Close

It was **agreed** to contact Julian Cook to discuss the siting of flashing 20mph signs on Cranbrook Road near the junction with Beaman Close at the start and end of the school day. This was agreed in principle during the HIP site meeting in May. Finally, to request that the vegetation around the existing school signs on Cranbrook Road be cut back as a matter of urgency. **Action: Clerk**

'Pedestrians in road' signs on North Road outside Goudhurst Tennis Club

It was **agreed** to ask Highways to confirm the ownership of the verge outside Goudhurst Tennis Club so that the proposed 'Pedestrians in Road' signs can be installed. The Committee believes the land belongs to Kent Highways however Julian Cook disputes this. Kent Highways are not willing to adopt the land and sign and request written confirmation from the Parish Council that the Parish Council will take responsibility for the maintenance of the sign and land surrounding it. **Action: Clerk**

8. Update from GTAG

Lorry Watch

It was **noted** that Helen Sampson from GTAG had been in contact with the Freight Officer at KCC regarding setting up a Lorry Watch scheme in the Parish. The Freight Officer drew attention to the fact that there are no restrictions on the A262 meaning it is not possible to request enforcement from the police. There are three documents which must be provided to KCC before

the scheme is approved; these are a Method Statement, Risk Assessment and a copy of Council's Public Liability Insurance. It was **agreed** that the Council should support the setting up of a Lorry Watch Scheme, providing the necessary documents, so that accurate data on the number and type of HGVs moving through the Parish can be collected. **Action: Clerk to check Public Liability insurance and respond to the Freight Officer and Helen Sampson**

Speed Watch

Helen Sampson reported that the group now has 9 volunteers who have carried out 6 speed checks so far.

Next Highways Committee Meeting 24 August 2021, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.10