

# Goudhurst Parish Council



## HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 24 August 2021 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Alan Foster, David Knight and Guy Sutton and Mrs Alison Webster. Paul Green (Market Place), Ted Bennett (A21) and Colin Wilson (GTAG) as advisors.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Antony Harris (unwell)

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

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

4. HGVs in Goudhurst Village

*4.1. Proposed meeting with St Mary's PCC to discuss the recovery of costs following HGV damage to the churchyard wall.*

It was noted that Clerk had approached Ali Williams regarding a meeting and that the proposed meeting will need to be discussed by the staff team at St Mary's once Rev. Rachel Robertson returns from leave. It was further noted that the wall, once rebuilt in the new position, will be insured by Ecclesiastical and any claim for costs from hauliers will be actioned by the insurance company.

*4.2. Contacting Sean Holden*

The Committee chairman spoke to County Councillor Seán Holden at the last Parish Council meeting regarding the proposal to control HGV movement across the county, moving vehicles onto main routes and away from villages. Cllr Holden indicated that KCC are still keen to advance this scheme. The scheme requires an act of Parliament and as yet, the government have given little time to the proposal. It was noted that County Councillor David Brazier is the new KCC cabinet member for transport.

It was agreed to move item 9.1 forward.

*9.1 Update on Lorry Watch.*

This is now taking place although we are awaiting the arrival of additional lorry watch signage. The chairman thanked the Clerk for her assistance in getting the scheme registered with KCC. Colin Wilson reported that the watch had taken place weekly in August alongside speed watch. Data on the number of vehicles with 5 or more axels is being recorded along with the registration plate and company name so that 'repeat offenders' can be identified. The chairman asked if the number of vehicles with 5 axels and 6 axels could be recorded separately.

5. Update on Highways England A21 safety improvements.

It was noted that the Clerk had attended a Highways England (HE) stakeholder briefing which set out the proposed changes to the road from Scotney Castle roundabout to Hastings. HE will meet with individual parishes to discuss local issues in September. It was **agreed** to write to Peter Philips from HE, requesting a date for the meeting he previously agreed to in an email to Ted Bennett. The purpose of the meeting is to share the locally collected crash data and to discuss the impact on local

residents. Ted Bennett has prepared a presentation that he is keen to share with HE. It was further agreed that an A21 working party would meet prior to any meeting with Mr Philips.

### *5.1. Updated crash data*

The data had been shared with members prior to the meeting. The data is now colour coded to assist in identifying the accident hotspots along the stretch. The Chairman thanked Ted Bennett for his work on collecting and presenting the data.

## **6. Goudhurst EV Charge points**

It was noted that a quote had been received from Connected Kerb for £8,000. The quote is to change the EV points to those that charge for electricity used. It was agreed by Committee members that the KCC scheme should be further investigated. Under this scheme, KCC would install and manage the points.

## **7. Update on the Parish Highways Improvement Plan Priorities**

### *7.1. A262 - Green Cross Inn (HIP 4)*

The Chairman raised the matter of reducing the speed limit to 30 mph from the junction with Blue Coat Lane to the Parish boundary. It was noted that previously Kent Highways had dismissed this proposal. At the parish boundary the speed limit changes to unrestricted; it is deemed too big a change from 30 to 60mph over a short length of road. Kent Highways have agreed to replace the current signage from 'reduce speed now' to 'max 30' at a cost of £1000. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council the expenditure of £1000 for the renewed 'max 30 mph' signs on the A262 in the area of the Green Cross Inn. It was noted that there 40 mph road marking adjacent to the signs, Clerk will check the status of these markings with Kent Highways. **Action: Clerk.** The chairman proposed asking the owner of the Green Cross Inn to share the collision data/ photographs he had collected to assist in building a case for the speed reduction. **Action: Cllr David Boniface.**

### *Footway between the Market Place development and Footpath WC39 (Finchcocks driveway).*

There is currently no footway on the A262 between the Market Place development and WC39. Pedestrians have previously walked across the forecourt of the Green Cross Inn between these two points. This access is now closed. There is a narrow strip of land along the edge of the Highway that the Chairman believes is a former footway. The land is registered to the Green Cross Inn. It was **agreed** that the status of the land should be checked with Highways.

**Action: Clerk.** *Note from Clerk, a footway must be a minimum of 1.2m.*

### *7.2. B2079 North Road - signs at Goudhurst Tennis Club (HIP 6)*

Kent Highways have confirmed that the verge on which the sign is to be placed is not owned by Highways. Clerk has checked the Land Registry data and the verge appears to be unregistered. It was agreed that Clerk will write to neighbouring properties to ask if this strip is included in the deeds of their properties.

**Action: Clerk**

### *7.3. A262 - Iden Green proposed speed reduction (HIP 3)*

It was **noted** that Kent Highways require an Automatic Traffic Census (ATC) to be carried out before a decision can be made on the proposed speed reduction. It was **agreed** to request a quotation for an ATC at both Iden Green (on the A262 between Taywell Farm Shop and the junction of the B2085, Glassenbury Road) and on Station Road at the Market Place development.

*7.4. A262 Cranbrook Road - Proposed traffic calming adjacent to Beaman Close & Primary School (HIP 8)*

A quote of C£6,000 has been received from Kent Highways to introduce a part time 20mph zone on Cranbrook Road near to Beaman Close. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council approval of the expenditure, £6000 plus the annual subscription of approximately £100. Agreement is needed from the school to switch the signs on and off twice daily. An alternative is for the school to fund a SIM card for automation. **Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with the school Bursar regarding funding and operation of sign.**

8. Proposal to send a letter to Senior officers at Kent Highways regarding the lack of action.

Not discussed. No decision was made.

9. GTAG

*9.2. Update on Speed Watch*

There are 9 volunteers who, following feedback, now work in groups of 3 groups to record the speed of traffic on the main 30mph roads in Goudhurst. The data collected is sent to Kent Police. Of the vehicles recorded, 5% are travelling at 36mph+.

10. Next Highways Committee Meeting 26 October 2021, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.50

Claire Reed  
Clerk