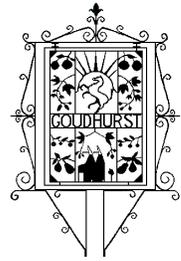


# Goudhurst Parish Council



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of an Extraordinary Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday 15 February 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom Conference Call

**Present:** Cllrs Craig Broom (Chairman), Alan Foster, Antony Harris, David Knight, Barry Noakes, Mrs. Caroline Richards and Guy Sutton.  
Mrs. Claire Reed, Clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Chris Ditton
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Application for a Goods Vehicle Operator's License for Lime Tree Farm, Cranbrook Road, Goudhurst.

It was **noted** that the Parish Council does not have the statutory right to submit an objection to this application however, it was **agreed** that an objection should be submitted to the Traffic Commissioner by the Parish Council. The Commissioner is not obliged to consider GPC's representation given GPC does not own or control assets near the site. A copy of the concerns highlighted will be sent to local residents in support of their representations.

It was **agreed** that the Committee's concerns should be discussed with Seán Holden (KCC) and Charles Mackonochie (KALC) to better understand how to engage with statutory authorities. **Action: Clerk**

### GPC Concerns

The Parish council has a number of concerns about large vehicles operating from Lime Trees Farm.

### Impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

1. The site is within the AONB, sitting on top of the Goudhurst ridge. The site can be seen from a considerable distance during daylight hours and large vehicles would be prominent in the landscape.
2. This area of the AONB is also covered by dark-skies policies (in the Parish NDP and Borough Local Plan) and any security lighting associated with the site would be prominent in the landscape and could impact wildlife in the area (particularly Barn Owls which regularly quarter the fields adjoining Lime Trees Farm).

### Road Safety.

1. Access to the site is via two entrance gates both of which are constrained. Exit and entrance to the site will require large vehicles to cross the white lines using both carriageways. This would create a high level of risk as Lime Trees Farm is on the fastest section of the A262 in an area where there have been fatalities in the past.

2. The A262 on both approaches to Goudhurst has 'Road not suitable for long vehicles' signs. The A262 is severely constrained in Goudhurst village centre where damage to the Grade 1 listed St Mary's church wall by heavy goods vehicles is a common occurrence.

4. The next meeting of the Planning Committee is on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.19pm

Claire Reed, Clerk