

Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

on Monday 11 October 2021 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Parish Hall

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors Antony Harris (Chairman), Craig Broom, Chris Ditton, Alan Foster, Phil Kirkby, David Knight, Barry Noakes, Mrs Caroline Richards and Mrs Jayne Russell.

Also Borough Cllr Dr Linda Hall until 7.45 pm

Mrs Claire Reed, Clerk and Anthony Farnfield, Deputy Clerk & RFO. 1 Member of the public.

APOLOGIES

170/21 Were accepted from Cllrs Guy Sutton (holiday) and Mrs Alison Webster (holiday).

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

171/21 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

172/21 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 September 2021, copies of which had been previously distributed to Members via Board Intelligence, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

173/21 None

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

174/21 Borough Cllr Dr Linda Hall reported:

Electoral System. The result of the public consultation was a majority vote against the reduction in the number of councillors. At full Council, TWBC voted in favour of maintaining the current number of councillors, currently 48. Cllr Hall believed this was sensible as there are 15,000 new houses planned for the borough which will result in at least 30,000 new residents. The majority of residents responding to the consultation were in favour of voting by thirds – the current arrangement. TWBC Members voted to maintain voting by thirds and the current 48 members.

175/21 Borough Cllr David Knight reported:

Electoral System. The vote was not a party vote and individual Councillors were able to vote as they thought best for residents. TWBC now need to write to the Boundaries Commissions by 09 November 2021 with the results. It was **agreed** that the Chairman would draft a letter on behalf of Council stressing the importance of keeping the link between Councillors and the communities they serve. **Action: Cllr Antony Harris.**

Waste Collection. It was **noted** that there is no date for resuming garden waste collections but is hoped there will be a 'one off' collection in the coming weeks.

Lamberhurst NDP. This was approved by TWBC at full Council last week.

CLERK'S REPORT

- 176/21 **Bedgebury Pinetum.** Forestry England are planning to make changes to the Walled Garden and will be inviting Councillors to attend a stakeholder meeting in the coming weeks.
- 177/21 **Environmental Information Regulations 2004.** It was **noted** that a request for information regarding the use of herbicides in the parish had been received. Clerk has responded to the request under the regulations and within the legal timescales.

THE CLOSURE OF HIGH WEALD ACADEMY (HWA)

- 178/21 It was **noted** that there is a proposal to close the Academy in August 2022. There has been no consultation on this proposal but the Department of Education has launched a 4 week listening period. Helen Grant MP, member for Maidstone and The Weald, is leading a campaign of 'community pushback' to the proposal and is investigating the possibility of a Judicial Review on the basis that the correct procedures were not followed. It was **resolved** to write to the Secretary of State, copied to Helen Grant MP, to ask him to overturn the decision, or at the least to postpone a decision for 12 months. **Action: Clerk**
- 179/21 **High Weald Academy, Cranbrook.** Mrs. Georgia Read-Cutting, a mentor at HWA, addressed Council. Mrs Read-Cutting is fiercely opposed to the closure of the school and explained the impact the proposal is having on students. It was **noted** that the school premises were rebuilt in 2019 at a cost of approximately £10 million. The school has a recruitment and retention problem with a large turnover of staff, including the Principle. The proposal from the Leigh Academy Trust is to make the school a satellite of the Snowfields Academy, an SEN school, in Maidstone. Mrs Read-Cutting believes there is adequate space in the Sixth Form centre at HWA to accommodate the students from Snowfields in addition to the existing provision. It was agreed that a special edition E-newsletter be sent out with details on how parishioners can get involved. **Action: Clerk**

AMENITIES COMMITTEE with POLICE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH and FOOTPATHS

The Chairman of the Amenities Committee reported:

- 180/21 It was **noted** that there are a number of outstanding projects for which the Committee are awaiting quotations.
- 181/21 **Bus Shelter, North Road, Goudhurst.** It was **noted** that a request to replace the bus shelter has been made by a resident. Council **resolved** to repair the existing shelter and asked the Amenities Committee to request quotations for the works.
- 182/21 **Millennium Green Mowing.** It was **resolved** to approve an annual grant of £2,300 to the Millennium Green Trust for grass cutting and strimming. The contract will be between the Kilndown Millennium Green Trust and the appointed contractor. Deputy Clerk to action.

BURIALS COMMITTEE

Deputy Clerk reported:

- 183/21 **Update of Burial Regulations and Fees.** Following Minute 124/21 of 09 August 2021. Deputy Clerk has re-drafted the Burial Regulations to tighten up some points. This includes Council's policy on items on graves and enforcement issues. He intends to take legal advice on the wording in the preamble of Council's Authority to charge fees and to set the Regulations so as to incorporate changes in legislation in past years. The new draft will be considered by the next Burial Committee meeting on 19 October 2021.
- 184/21 **Unauthorised Items on graves.** This item will also be considered at the Burial Committee meeting on 19 October to include procedures on implementing the requirement to have unauthorised items removed.

- 185/21 **Polished black marble memorials.** It was noted that Council had received a proposal from the Chairman of the Burial Committee to no longer allow applications for polished black marble memorials. This will be considered at the Burial Board meeting on 19 October 2021.
- 186/21 **Testing the safety of memorial headstones.** Deputy Clerk is arranging for two separate specialists to visit to carry out tests.
- 187/21 **Digitisation of Burial Records.** Following Minute 154/21. It was noted that the Hop Bine team has started work to transfer data from the hand written historic ledgers dating back to the 1880s. Two part-time contractors (each 2 or 3 hours a week) have started learning the software (under Clerk's instruction). It is taking a lot of the Clerks' time but it will settle down as we progress.
- 188/21 **Clean up Day.** It was **noted** that this was held on Saturday 09 October at both St Mary's Goudhurst and Christ Church Kilndown. There was good support from volunteers. At St Mary's it is likely that, in future, Council will hire a chipper for the day so that there will be no need to borrow a huge trailer from a helpful local farmer.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- 189/21 **Late Night Shopping 26 November 2021. 4pm to-9pm.** It was **noted** that plans for the annual event are well underway. There has been much discussion about how stalls and businesses outside the Church can be supported. Visitors will be encouraged to move down the High Street to The Plain, Social Club and Parish Hall. The top of Balcombes Hill will be closed for the event (as happened for Goudhurst Open Day) to give a safe walking route to The Plain. GADS will be performing extracts from 'A Christmas Carol', Kilndown Choir will be singing and the local Morris Men will give 3 performances. It was **noted** that Clerk has secured £2,000 in 'Welcome Back' funding from TWBC to purchase 20 feather flags. These will be used to line the route from the Church to The Plain to encourage visitors to move around the village. It was resolved to send out a special edition of the e-newsletter in mid-November with a programme of events and to provide information to TWBC for inclusion on the Borough Tourist Information website. **Action: Cllr Craig Broom and Clerk.**
- 190/21 **Broadband update for Goudhurst Parish.** Cllr David Knight reported:
Project A: Now in delivery. This project didn't reach its voucher target however Openreach has agreed to cover the financial shortfall and the project has moved into the delivery stage.
Project B1: So far 78% of vouchers have been returned.
Project B2: This is being re-estimated by Openreach following the splitting of Project B.
Kilndown: The project is expected to go live in January 2022.

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Highways Committee, Cllr David Boniface reported:

- 191/21 **A21 Safety Improvements.** It was **noted** that a successful stakeholder meeting was held with Highways England on 21 September. Highways England want to have an open dialogue with the Parish Council and residents and welcome any evidence or comments.
- 192/21 **Highways Improvement Plan.** It was noted that Clerk is working hard on the plan and moving projects forward.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 193/21 **Recent planning Applications;** Please see Appendix 1.

YOUTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Youth and Housing Committee reported:

194/21 *Mary Day's Garages project.* It was **noted** that Council are still awaiting details of the covenant on the garages from the seller's solicitor.

195/21 *Transfer of the Chequer Field title to Goudhurst Parish Council.* It was **noted** that the transfer was successfully completed on 27 September 2021. £6,000 was received via our legal advisers for deficiencies in the original construction of the playing field.

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

196/21 It was **resolved** to make a request to TWBC for trees under the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. The Amenities Committee will decide on species and possible locations.

Action: Cllr Chris Ditton and Clerk.

ACCOUNTS

The Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer reported:

197/21 *Accounts for October 2021:*

Receipts in September 2021:

Burial Authority	£130.00
CCLA PSDF	£0.30
Precept 2 nd half 221-22	<u>£97,500.00</u>
Total	£97,630.00

Payments in September 2021:

Unity Trust Bank a/c	£15,659.13
Nat West	<u>0.00</u>
Total	£15,659.13

Cash Balances at Bank 30 September 2021:

Unity Trust Bank	£130,325.51
NatWest	£33,773.03
CCLA PSDF	<u>£20,575.15</u>
Total	£184,673.69

A complete list of all payments made by Council in September 2021 follows as a supplementary page in Appendix 2.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

198/21 *Volunteers.* The Chairman is continuing to encourage members of the Parish to volunteer with local groups or for events via the Parish Newsletter. It was agreed that producing a calendar of events that need support would be helpful. **Action: Cllr Antony Harris.**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

199/21 Parish Council Open Meeting on Monday 08 November 2021, 7.30 for 7.45pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.05 hrs

Claire Reed, Clerk

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of Council

Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 October 2021

Recommendations and Decisions September 2021

Application	Address	Proposal	GPC	TWBC
21/02690	Beresford Lodge, Bedgebury Road	Demolition of existing detached outbuilding. Proposed two storey extension (part subterranean). Proposed glazed single storey link connecting replacement outbuilding with existing dwelling. Proposed internal and external alterations to existing dwelling. Proposed stone columned timber pergola on the north elevation of the house. Remodelled steps leading up to front door of house. Proposed adjustment to existing westerly spur to the driveway. Hard and soft landscaping. Relocation / replacement of existing oil tank.	A previous application which proposed linking the development to the lodge building was refused. A subsequent application which separated the development from the lodge was approved. This application seeks to reinstate the link between the development and the lodge as per the original application. While we can see the benefits of the proposal we will defer to the conservation officer for decision.	Granted
21/02691/LBC	Beresford Lodge, Bedgebury Road	As above	As above	Granted
21/02855	Triggs Farm, Cranbrook Road	Variation of Condition 4 (Internal Road Configuration Drawings) of 17/02765/OUT - To amend condition 4 to read: 'The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: 15679 H-01 Rev P1 & DHA/11357/21'.	Refuse: lack of clarity over the proposed use of the site; no reason to extend permission; drive changes not material to the application.	Granted with conditions
21/02857	Twysden Cottage, Kilndown	Demolition of the existing prefabricated detached garage located to the front of the property, relocation of oil tank so that it is at least 2m from any structure, and construction of new prefabricated garage on new foundation following severe subsidence related damage.	Approve	

Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 October 2021

Recommendations and Decisions September 2021

21/03000	Swan Farmhouse, Swan Lane	Single storey garden room	Refuse: Size, scale, design and Materials	
21/03054	Rose Cottage, North Road	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 18/02954/FULL - Minor material amendment sought for revisions to fenestration, internal layout and removal of hipped roof to rear replace the previously-approved plans with those now attached. No alteration to footprint of existing permission.	Approve: improvement on original design, still too large & prominent in the landscape.	
21/02594	Cedar Cottage, Clayhill	Demolition of an existing lean to element with a replacement single storey extension, associated internal alterations and external material alterations.	Refuse: Size, doesn't complement original house, prominent position on approach to the village.	

Date: 11/10/2021

Goudhurst Parish Council Current Year

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Time: 11:00

Unity Trust Current A/c

List of Payments made between 01/09/2021 and 30/09/2021

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
02/09/2021	Tony Bovey Pond Life	U920	197.46		Pond pump filter project
09/09/2021	Nest	DD	107.63		GPC contrib to Clerk's pensio
09/09/2021	Lloyds Bank UTB	DD	85.51		Debit card items
17/09/2021	EE Ltd	DD	13.12		Clerk's business mobile sim
20/09/2021	GroundsCare & General Services	U921	2,657.28		Grounds maint contract
20/09/2021	Capel Ground Care	U922	1,380.74		Grounds maints contracts
20/09/2021	John Fermor Landscapes	U923	1,170.00		Grounds maint contracts
20/09/2021	Tenterden Twilight Commercial	U924	774.19		Cleaning contracts
20/09/2021	Pearson's Landscapes	U925	111.60		The Plain grounds maint
20/09/2021	Microshade Business Consultant	U926	156.74		Citrix Inv 15004
20/09/2021	Elaine Bright	U927	54.00		War Memorial garden maint
20/09/2021	Knockout Print Services	U928	78.00		Mount map Goudhurst Parish
20/09/2021	The Living Forest Ltd	U929	625.20		Yew pruning west door St Mary'
20/09/2021	Pear Technology Services Ltd	U930	51.00		Goudhurst Wall Map
20/09/2021	PKF Littlejohn LLP	U931	720.00		Audit GPC AGAR 2020-21
20/09/2021	Complete Weed Control (Kent)	U932	612.00		Weed Control St Marys Christ C
20/09/2021	Kilndown Village Hall	U933	90.00		Hire for Council meetings
20/09/2021	Community Heartbeat Trust	U934	105.60		Replacement parts
20/09/2021	Richard Greenaway	U935	30.00		Public toilet maint
20/09/2021	Kent Assoc of Local Councils	U936	60.00		Kent Assoc of Local Councils
20/09/2021	AVB Farnfield	U937	1,932.20		Deputy Cler RFO pay Sep
20/09/2021	CL Reed	U938	1,642.94		Clerk Salary Sep
20/09/2021	HM Revenue & Customs	U939	1,249.88		Employee NI Sep 21
20/09/2021	Ryman Stationery	U940	15.47		Minor stationery items
20/09/2021	CL Reed	U941	13.13		Minor expenses Sep 21
20/09/2021	CL Reed	U942	25.99		Office Monitor stand reclaim
20/09/2021	Ryman Stationery	U940	-15.47		Minor Stationery items
20/09/2021	AVB Farnfield	U940	15.47		Minor stationery items
20/09/2021	Southern Electric	DD	129.95		Energy Cheq Pavilion Qtr 2
20/09/2021	GroundsCare & General Services	U921	-0.03		St Mary's Mowing
28/09/2021	VEOLIA Environmental Services	DD	156.44		Burial Grounds bin
29/09/2021	Peter King	U943	90.00		Mole catching Village Green
29/09/2021	John Fermor	U944	1,150.00		Grounds maint Sep 21
30/09/2021	Infinity Technology Solutions	DD	135.59		Office phones & Broadband
30/09/2021	Unity Trust Bank	DD	0.30		Manual credit handling charge
30/09/2021	Unity Trust Bank	DD	37.20		SERvice charge

Total Payments 15,659.13