****Goudhurst Parish Council****

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 01 March 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Antony Harris, David Knight, Guy Sutton and Mrs Alison Webster.

Also Mr Paul Green (Market Place resident), Mr Ted Bennett (A21 resident) as advisors. Laura Collins, Branfold, North Road, Three members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Foster (Holiday) and Mrs Helen Sampson (GTAG)

# Declarations of Interest: There were none.

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

# Minutes

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14 December 2021, were an accurate record.

# Speed Watch.

Helen Sampson was absent from the meeting but had sent a report. It was noted that there hadn’t been any speed watch sessions since mid-December due to the weather and being short of available volunteers. It was agreed that an advert calling for more volunteers should be placed in the e-newsletter. Laura Collins also agreed to speak to her neighbours about becoming volunteers.

**Action: Clerk**

# Lorry Watch in Goudhurst Parish.

This is now up and running alongside Speed Watch which will resume in better weather. The Lorry Watch signs have been put up around the village and volunteers are writing to hauliers seen travelling through the village asking them to use alternative routes.

# HGVs in Goudhurst Village.

The Committee thanked Helen Sampson of GTAG and the volunteers for their work on this.

# Update on National Highways (formally Highways England) A21 safety improvements.

Ted Bennett briefed the Committee on his extensive correspondence with National Highways (NH) and Kent Police. Kent Police have been unwilling to support a reduction in the speed limit around the Stonecrouch area as they did not find enough evidence to support it. This was still the case in a further report produced following a meeting between Ted Bennett and Chief Inspector Craig West on 20 January 2022. Having been challenged on their stance, Kent Police have taken the decision not to further advise National Highways on a suitable speed limit. It is expected that NH will now carry out their own speed analysis and survey

NH officers have agreed to meet with Councillors and residents to see the areas of concern first hand. It was suggested that the officers could be asked to walk the road. **Action: Ted Bennett**

Mr Bennett has also been investigating the designation of Stonecrouch as a village. The area is shown as a separate settlement on the 1851 census and appears to meet the Department of Transport definition in terms of the number dwellings and amenities. The Committee thanked Ted Bennett for all of his good work on the A21 safety project over many years.

# Goudhurst EV Charge Points

It was noted that some residents are regularly charging their cars at the charging points and that the electricity is now costing the Council approximately £5,000 a year. The Committee raised concerns over the rise in cost of electricity from 01 April 2022. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that the charge points are switched off, following a 4 week notice period, until new units that charge for the electricity are installed. **Action: Clerk**

Howard Huntington has been assisting Clerk with investigating alternative units. Council have received two quotations to replace the units and is seeking a further quotation. Cllr David Knight agreed to find out who is supplying TWBC’s charge points in the town centre. **Action: Clerk/ Howard Huntington, Cllr David Knight.**

# Update on the Goudhurst Parish Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) Priorities

## ATCs

These are now in place on the A262 Station Road at the Green Cross Inn, the A262 Cranbrook Road in Iden Green and on Chequers Road.

B2079 North Road – Pedestrians in road signs at Goudhurst Tennis Club.

Members noted that this minor scheme has been outstanding with Kent Highways for at least 2 years without implementation. It was **agreed** to request a face to face meeting with Lesley Game, Chairman of Kent County Council, to discuss this and how it fits into KCC’s Vision Zero strategy. **Action: Clerk**

Traffic calming on A262 Cranbrook Road by Beaman Close and G&K Primary School.

There is no suitable electricity supply for the flashing 20mph signs. A Kent Highways contractor has visited the site and believes there is insufficient sunlight, due to shade from the trees, to run solar powered signs. It was **agreed** that further advice should be sought from an alternative supplier. **Action: Clerk**

Kent Highways have suggested that the school update their School Travel Plan. **Action: Clerk to discuss with the school.**

A262, Iden Green.

A Kent Highways officer made a verbal agreement to a reduction in the speed limit to 50mph at the HIP meeting in March 2020. An ATC was needed to progress this and these are currently in situ.

It was noted that a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan usually takes place in March. There has been no contact from Kent Highway regarding a meeting to date.

# Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 26 April 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Claire Reed

Clerk