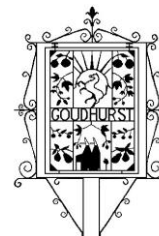


Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

on Monday 14 November 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors Jill Andrew, David Boniface, Craig Broom, Antony Harris (Chairman), Phil Kirkby, David Knight (Borough Councillor), Caroline Richards and Alison Webster. Claire Reed, Clerk; Rebecca Barden Assistant Clerk and Panetta Horn, RFO. 7 Members of the public.

CO-OPTION

233/22 It was **resolved** to co-opt Geoff Mason and Oliver Tinkler as members of the council.

APOLOGIES

234/22 Were accepted from Cllr Guy Sutton (holiday). It was **noted** that Cllr Barry Noakes was absent.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

235/22 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

236/22 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 October, copies of which had been previously distributed to Members via Board Intelligence, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

237/22 County Councillor Seán Holden reported:

Council Funding. There will be a £50 million shortfall in Council funding due to COVID, inflation etc. Kent and Hampshire County Councils have written to the government requesting changes to government funding and flexibility on the 2% cap on Council tax increases also a change in regulations to allow KCC to provide services without the level of 'red tape'. A 1% increase in the council tax will generate approximately £7.5million.

Ofsted report. Ofsted have reported that KCC is not providing a satisfactory service to SEND children. The demand for Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) has increased hugely throughout the county as has the cost of support for those children.

Plan Bee. The next Kent Plan Bee conference will be on 22nd November 2022. Kent Wildlife Trust has carried out a number plate splatter survey. 5000 people took part and the results have shown a 72% decline in flying insects over the last 17 years. If bees die, we die!

GTAG. Cllr Seán Holden has agreed to meet with GTAG to discuss lorry movements in the Parish. Sean has also suggested that the group attend the joint transportation board meeting which provides a link between County and Borough councils. KCC now has powers to enforce moving traffic offences including weight limits however fines are low so do not act as a deterrent to commercial hauliers.

Refugees arriving in Kent. The government is covering some of the cost however it is difficult for KCC to get the money back. The government is now requiring other local authorities to take refugees.

238/22 Borough Cllr David Knight reported:

Boundary Commission. The Commission has paused the review pending the outcome of the public consultation which closes on 23 November 2022. TWBC are consulting the public on the electoral system for borough elections. A system of 'all out' elections would provide the opportunity for smaller ward sizes. The outcome of the consultation will be considered by TWBC General Purposes Committee who will decide whether to recommend a change to the electoral system to the Full Council who will meet at 6pm on 15 December 2022. A resolution to change the electoral system will require a 2/3 vote.

Fibre Broadband. ½ parish is now connected to fibre broadband. The other projects are underway and should be finished by Easter 2023, giving 900 homes access to fibre broadband.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

239/22 The chairman, Cllr Antony Harris reported:

Boundary Commission Review. The chairman has followed up with members of the KALC Area Committee who are united in their view that the implications of maintaining election by thirds were not made clear and that to maintain the status quo is bad for communities. It is felt that larger wards will create a democratic deficit. The area committee voted 8-1 to change their position. There has been resistance among town centre councillors at TWBC to reopening the consultation however the vote was 33-10 in favour of reopening. The consultation runs until 23 November 2022. It was **noted** that Borough Cllr Linda Hall did not vote for the motion to reopen the consultation. All out elections are more cost effective for the borough which is expected to run at a 1.8 million deficit in 2023-24. Currently elections cost 390k over the council's term in office. GPC's position is: 1. Kilndown & Goudhurst should stay together 2. The Parish should be a single member ward. It was agreed that all councillors should write to the Boundary Commission individually.

240/22 **Performance management for officers.** It was **resolved** to delegate responsibility for the Officers' Annual appraisals to the Staffing Committee. **Action: Staffing Committee**

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk, Mrs Claire Reed, reported:

241/22 **The Public Session at Council Meetings.** It was **resolved** to move the public session at Full Council meetings to 7pm, prior to the start of the meeting, for a trial period of 3 months. This change will be advertised in the Parish Magazine and e-newsletter. Not all councillors will be present for the public session however it was agreed that Committee Chairman should be present. **Action: Cllr Antony Harris and Clerk.**

Loo of the Year Awards 2022. It was **noted** that the public conveniences on Balcombes Hill were again graded as Platinum in the latest inspection.

Outstanding projects. It was **noted** that the Clerks are compiling a list of outstanding projects/ actions to be shared with Committees so that priorities can be identified.

Action: Clerks

242/22 **Consultation request from Maidstone Borough Council.** It was **resolved** to delegate authority for making a representation to the Planning Committee. **Action: Planning Committee.**

ACCOUNTS

The Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs Panetta Horn, reported:

243/22 **Accounts for Council's October 2022 meeting:**

Receipts UTB in October 2022

Burial Authority	£1,010.00
Rental – Mary Days garages	£135.00
Misc	£5.68
Total	<hr/> £ 1,150.68

Receipts CCLA in October 2022

Interest Reinvested	£29.74
Total	<hr/> £29.74

Payments in October 2022

UTB	£15,288.36
Natwest	0.00
CCLA	0.00
Total	<hr/> £15,288.36

Cash Balances at Bank on 30th September 2022

UTB	£166,503.21
Natwest Current Account	33,773.03
CCLA PSDF (31.05.22)	20,586.16
Total	<hr/> £235,097.04

A complete list of all payments made by Council in October 2022 follows as a supplementary page in Appendix 2.

244/22 **Signatories.** It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Geoff Mason, Alison Webster and Caroline Richards as additional signatories for Council's Unity Trust Bank account. **Action: RFO**

MATTERS ARISING

245/22 **Grant Awarding Policy.** It was **resolved** to adopt the revised grant awarding policy and grant application form. It was further **resolved** to notify current recipients of the new application process for grants from 2023-24.

246/22 **Future location of Council Meetings.** It was **agreed** that a revised quote should be sought from the Village Hall Committee for meeting room hire. It was noted that a quotation had been received from the PCC for exclusive use of the Church Rooms on a Tuesday evening.

247/22 **Goudhurst Living Room.** Cllr Alison Webster reported that venues had been secured to provide warm spaces for the community. They are: Monday in Goudhurst Club, Tuesday in St Mary's Church, Wednesday in the Star & Eagle, Thursday in The Vine, Friday during Cafe Toddlers in St Mary's Church and from 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday in Goudhurst Club. Free tea, coffee & biscuits will be available along with lunch on Tuesday in the Church. It was **resolved** to support the Goudhurst Living Room and to fund £60 a week for 12 weeks, £20 each to the commercial enterprises and Kilndown Village Hall, under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Kilndown warm room will start, on a

trial basis, from Tuesday 22 November in Kilndown Village Hall. It was **resolved** to delegate the establishment and organisation of the Goudhurst warm room to Cllrs Jill Andrew and Alison Webster.

STAFFING COMMITTEE

248/22 Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 31 October 2022.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr David Knight, Chairman of the Amenities Committee reported:

249/22 **CCTV for Church wall. It was noted that a further quote has been** received. The item will be discussed at the forthcoming Amenities Committee meeting.

Duck house. This has been repaired and is awaiting return to the pond.

Tree seat for The Plain. The Committee will consider the new design and quotation for a replacement tree seat for the horse chestnut tree on The Plain at their next meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

250/22 Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 17 October 2022.

BURIAL AUTHORITY

251/22 Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on 18 October 2022. It was **noted** that Clerk had contacted the manager of Tunbridge Wells cemetery to arrange a meeting to discuss the management of the cemetery and memorial safety testing.

BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

252/22 There was no update. A meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday 15 November 2022.

YOUTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

253/22 There was no update.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

254/21 **Recent planning Applications;** Please see Appendix 1. It was **noted** that recently 4 applications had been approved by TWBC, against the recommendation of the Parish Council, who recommended refusal on the grounds of proposed materials or size and mass.

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

255/22 Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on 25 October 2022. It was **noted** that Committee members have been invited to a Zoom meeting with Kent Highways to discuss the updated Highways Improvement Plan.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

256/22 Parish Council Meeting, Monday 12 December 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.25

Claire Reed, Clerk

Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 14 November 2022

Recommendations and Decisions October 2022

Application	Address	Proposal	GPC	TWBC
22/02488	Monks, Summerhill	Proposed two bay car barn.	Approve	Permitted
22/02523	Nursery Farm Oast, London Road	Erection of 2 bay cart style garage and log store.	Approve. The revised design is much more in keeping with the farmstead and is in a better location, being away from the view of the main road.	Permitted
22/02581	Ladham Oasthouse, Ladham Road	Replacement of Garage/Workshop with swimming pool and associated pool house/garage.	Refuse on the basis of mass and scale in relation to the existing historic building and overall visual appearance and relationship to site.	Permitted
22/02587	Cloud Cottage, North Road	Proposed ground and first floor extension.	Approve	Refused
22/00704	4 Clay Cottages, Clayhill	Demolition of existing garage and construction of 1no dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.	Approve conditional on the creation of a new parking space at No 4 Clay Cottages. Comments: This is an overdevelopment of a very small and constrained site. The Committee has concerns over the mass and scale on the plot. The Committee notes that although the roofline is no higher than the adjoining development, the proximity to it creates a dominating effect. On viewing the site, cars were parked very close to the site entrance, any additional cars and site traffic parked on the A262 will radically change the site lines for the entrance and cause significant congestion in the village. The risk associated with any car attempting to reverse onto, or from, the A262 was considered to be high.	Permitted

Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 14 November 2022

Recommendations and Decisions October 2022

22/02724/LBC	Junction Of Triggs Farm, Cranbrook Road	Reconfiguration of vehicle access point, including boundary alterations and replacement boundary wall, to Holly Villas to secure visibility	Refuse. The improvement in the junction are considered small and there is concern that they cannot be guaranteed. The site lines shown in the application cannot be guaranteed and the potential for parking in the area created by the movement of the boundary could potentially make the junction more dangerous. The parking created for Holly Cottage is inadequate for two cars and provides no space for visitors (unlike the existing configuration) and creating additional space would allow cars to park in the space created by the boundary change. There was concern that delivery vehicles and other vehicles would use the space created by the boundary move as parking which could result in vehicles trying to reverse onto the A262. Triggs Farm application proposed to close this exit onto the A262 for safety reasons	Permitted
22/02723	Junction Of Triggs Farm, Cranbrook Road	Reconfiguration of vehicle access point, including boundary alterations and replacement boundary wall, to Holly Villas to secure visibility	As above.	Permitted
22/02739	Lapwing Farm, Bedgebury Road	Variation of Conditions in relation to conditions 2 (Approved Drawings) and 3 (External Materials Details). With application 20/03544/FULL.	REFUSE The changes in materials lower the standard of the conversion and introduce suburban materials to what is a converted agricultural building. The proposed changes uses materials that do not age and do not complement the local vernacular.	

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Recommendations and Decisions October 2022

22/02756	Peacock Inn, Cranbrook Road	Erection of new timber pergola and replacement paving.	Approve	
22/02757/LBC	Peacock Inn, Cranbrook Road	Erection of new timber pergola and replacement paving.	As above.	
22/02812	Anchorage, North Road	Single storey extension to the rear and reconfiguration of the front porch, Existing painted brickwork at the ground floor to be rendered.	Approve	Permitted
22/02750/LDC EX	Little Meadow Station Road	Lawful Development Cert. (Existing) - Occupation of Little Meadow in breach of the Agricultural Occupancy Condition 2 of permission WE/5/51/140.	Refuse. On principle GPC wish to retain dwellings in the community for agricultural workers although they had sympathy with the application.	
22/02922	Gatehouse Cottage , Ranters Lane	Removal of existing pool building, erection of ancillary residential accommodation.	Approve	
22/02865	Hams Travel London Road	Variation of Condition(s) 2, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 16 of Planning Permission 19/00679/FULL (Increase floor space from 217.8msq to 260msq, provide additional 42.2msq of internal floorspace, Increase Ridge height from 125m to 125.55m, Inclusion of a three bay car port, Alteration of render from painted white render to lime to render, The inclusion of solar panels, Amendments to condition(s) 6,8,11 and 12: To amend wording to allow provided details to be approved via planning process,	Approve	

Time: 19:10

Bank Reconciliation up to 31/10/2022 for Cashbook No 4 - Unity Trust Current A/c

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amnt Paid</u>	<u>Amnt Banked</u>	<u>Stat Amnt</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Payee Name or Description</u>
03/10/2022	22252	342.62		342.62		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Microshade Business Consultant
03/10/2022	22251	600.00		600.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Hillier
03/10/2022	22215	720.00		720.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	PKF Littlejohn LLP
03/10/2022	22233	15.00		15.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Goudhurst Village Hall
03/10/2022	22217	50.00		50.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Goudhurst Scouts
03/10/2022	22227	970.00		970.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Fermor
03/10/2022	22214	168.00		168.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Laura collins
03/10/2022	22213	176.05		176.05		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Reed
03/10/2022	22250	1,739.19		1,739.19		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Capel Ground Care
03/10/2022			135.00	135.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
10/10/2022	22245	36.73		36.73		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Lloyds Multicard
17/10/2022	222349	14.33		14.33		R <input type="checkbox"/>	EE
17/10/2022	22253	61.00		61.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Envirocure Ltd
18/10/2022			140.00	140.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
19/10/2022	22254	285.15		285.15		R <input type="checkbox"/>	BT
24/10/2022	22228	1,391.54		1,391.54		R <input type="checkbox"/>	GroundsCare & General Services
24/10/2022	22235	355.20		355.20		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Rialtas Business Solutions
24/10/2022	22232	853.20		853.20		R <input type="checkbox"/>	f&c cleaning services
24/10/2022	22242	44.95		44.95		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Helen Gibbs
24/10/2022	22200	970.00		970.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	john fermor
24/10/2022	22234	300.00		300.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	podpoint
24/10/2022	22231	898.28		898.28		R <input type="checkbox"/>	HMRC
24/10/2022	22237	355.20		355.20		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Easthorpe
24/10/2022	22243	371.15		371.15		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Amazon Co UK
24/10/2022	22229	22.79		22.79		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Reed
24/10/2022	22238	240.32		240.32		R <input type="checkbox"/>	richard greenaway
24/10/2022	22201	15.00		15.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Goudhurst Village Hall
24/10/2022	22241	188.89		188.89		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Hurstway Construction Co Ltd
24/10/2022	22240	294.00		294.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Trueplan
24/10/2022	22239	144.00		144.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Critical
24/10/2022	22230	677.82		677.82		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Panetta Horn
25/10/2022	22229	1,939.78		1,939.78		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Reed
25/10/2022			5.68	5.68		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
26/10/2022	22255	26.04		26.04		R <input type="checkbox"/>	NPower Ltd
26/10/2022	22256	12.00		12.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Unity Trust Bank
27/10/2022			140.00	140.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
28/10/2022	22247	152.62		152.62		R <input type="checkbox"/>	VEOLIA Environmental Services
31/10/2022	22248	857.51		857.51		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Infinity Technology Solutions
31/10/2022			730.00	730.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
31/10/2022	chq		33,773.00	33,773.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
		<u>15,288.36</u>	<u>34,923.68</u>				