

Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 13 December 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Antony Harris and Alison Webster.
Also: Ted Bennett (Stonecrouch A21 Action Group). Mrs Claire Reed, Clerk and Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk.

1. **Apologies** were accepted from Cllrs David Knight (TWBC meeting), Guy Sutton (travel difficulties) and Oliver Tinkler (working).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on 25 October 2022, and previously distributed to members via Board Intelligence, be accepted as a correct record.
4. **Questions from the public and press:** There were none.
5. **Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) on Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.**
There was no update.
6. **Campaign for A21 Safety improvements (SAG)**
Mr Ted Bennett briefed the Committee; the Stonecrouch Safety Group held an online meeting with National Highways recently. National Highways agreed to the following safety measures due to be implemented in March 2023 subject to environmental consent:
 - The speed limit between the Scotney roundabout and Flimwell crossroads will be reduced to 50mph from March 2023.
 - White lines to indicate no overtaking will be added between the T&J motel and Cedar Gables campsite.
 - Double white lines will be extended north to the Kilndown junction.
 - New chevrons to be added to the bend adjacent to the junction with Rosemary Lane.

The proposal to add Stonecrouch signs is still being considered. Local residents Ted Bennett and Paul Wareham will continue to discuss the inclusion of 50mph Average Speed Control cameras with National Highways which they consider are necessary and also continued investment in the junctions of Rosemary Lane and Kilndown Road. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would send a copy of the Parish Council's letter to National Highways to Ted Bennett. **Action: Clerk.**

7. **Update on the Highway Improvement Plan**
Cllr David Boniface briefed the committee on a meeting held with Demi Richards of KCC Highways in respect of the Highways Improvement Plan on the 07 December 2022. The virtual meeting was attended by Cllr David Boniface; Claire Reed, Clerk; Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk and Cllr Antony Harris (who arrived near the end of the meeting following a prior appointment). The re-structured HIP team, led by Emma Tilbury, now consists of:

Level 1: The Community Engagement Team for West Kent made up of Demi Richards, Tim Grigg and Nigel Rowe. Initial discussions regarding items on the HIP will be with this team.

Level 2: Planning and Advice Team. Requests from Level 1 are referred to this Team for technical review.

Level 3: Design and Delivery Team – this team is engaged when proposals are agreed.

8. GPC HIP Priorities as agreed with Kent Highways:

Priority no 1: Lower Speed Limit for the 0.9mile stretch of the A262 from Iden Green up to the 30mph in Goudhurst Village. Demi Richards has confirmed that the speeds recorded by the ATC in March 2022 were satisfactory for reducing the speed limit. The matter has been passed to the Planning and Advice Team for a feasibility study.

Priority no 2: A permanent or part-time 20mph speed limit on the A262 adjacent to the junction with Beaman Close; alternatively, a crossing or traffic calming. It was noted that the use of solar powered part-time 20mph speed signs was not met with enthusiasm in Kent Highways as they are considered to be unreliable and in need of intervention and maintenance. This item will be passed to Nigel Rowe, who will be undertaking some initial checks on HADMs.

Priority no 3: Concern over the large number of pedestrian/vehicle conflicts due to the shared areas on the High Street. Demi Richards has raised an enquiry with the Planning and Advice Team who will look into this.

Priority no 4: Reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the A262 from Spelmonden to the junction with Blue Coat Lane. This has been passed to Nigel Rowe who will look in to this using the HADMs.

It was felt that this meeting with KCC was satisfactory and many concerns were raised including the problems caused by the double bend at the Church and the blockages caused by the fact that this is a double-blind corner.

9. Replacement EV charge points.

It was **noted** that a number of quotations had been received and that, following advice from Mr Howard Huntingdon, there was a preference for the Pod Point system. It was further **noted** that the quotation received from the local contractor, who will install a Pod Point system, was considerably lower. It was **agreed** that the Chairman would contact the local contractor to clarify what is included in the price. **Action: Cllr David Boniface.**

It was suggested that this project is not a priority for local residents as those with electric cars have charging facilities at their homes and there are few tourists to the area at this time of year.

10. Application to KCC to reroute HGVs away from Goudhurst village

It was **noted** that members of GTAG are preparing a risk assessment. The Chairman is keen to source data on near misses and stressful events on High Street. **Action: ?**

11. To receive an update on the response from KCC regarding traffic management for the closure of the A262 April 2022.

It was **noted** that a response had been received from John Reynolds at KCC who stated that UKPN had not adhered to conditions set out in the relevant permit for the works. Mr Reynolds said he would escalate the issue and raise it with UKPN as a performance issue. **Action: Clerk to write to Mr Reynolds to establish if this had been done.**

A comprehensive response had also been received from Kent County Councillor Seán Holden regarding this incident. He agreed to make representations to the full KCC Council Meeting.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Seán Holden for an update.

12. Latest traffic issues raised by residents.

Michelle Carlton-Smith raised her concern at a previous GPC meeting about the double parking on the shared area between the Newsagent and the Vine Inn on the north side of the High Street. She said that there was no space for pedestrians to walk safely and that it is necessary to walk in the road with traffic going in both directions. She suggested that parking should only be allowed on one side of the road.

Cllr David Knight has received an email from a resident asking whether GPC could consider installing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) going down West Road. Provisionally, the GPC response to this request was that this device (SID) had originally been requested when the location of SIDs was being planned and were informed that it was not possible to install one on the hill going down West Road because it would be too close to a 30mph repeater sign. **Action: Cllr David Knight to respond to the resident.**

13. Items for Information

It was **noted** that supercars are being raced on the A21 between the roundabout at the junction with the A262 and the Scotney roundabout late on Saturday evenings. The sound of the revving engines could be heard as far away as Horsmonden.

14. Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 7.30pm, location to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm