

Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 21 February 2023 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Antony Harris, Oliver Tinkler and David Knight.

Officers Present: Mrs Claire Reed, Clerk and Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk.

Also: Ted Bennett (Stonecrouch A21 Action Group) and Twelve members of the public.

1. **Apologies** were accepted from Cllrs Guy Sutton (holiday) and Alison Webster (Coronation Meeting).
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 13 December 2022, and previously distributed to members via Board Intelligence, be accepted as a correct record.
4. **Questions from the public and press:** A number of issues were raised by the public. The first issue regarded the excessive speed of drivers along West Road. Cllr Boniface advised that this was an issue that needed to be pursued with KCC.
5. **Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) on Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.**
Cllr Boniface explained to the members of public present what GTAG was and how effective it has been since its creation. Cllr Knight informed those present that CCTV, including a ANPR camera had been approved for the monitoring of traffic by the Church. It will be installed on the Star and Eagle.
6. **Campaign for A21 Safety improvements (SAG)**
Mr Ted Bennett briefed the Committee. Stonecrouch residents have been issued with a flier which outlines the dates when work will be taking place, but does not identify what specific work will be undertaken. The Stonecrouch Safety Group will be holding an online meeting with National Highways in March to clarify the specifics. Cllr Harris thanked Mr Ted Bennett for his hard work and praised him for these achievements.

The Chairman directed that the Committee should discuss item no.13 next due to the number of residents present that were attending for this point.

7. **Traffic Speeds on North Road**
Residents reported their concerns regarding the danger of travelling along North Road, Lidwells Lane and Swan Lane. They consider that the speed limit is too high for these roads and they reported that the number of accidents has increased. They also stated that they considered it highly dangerous to cross the road to Ladham Road Estate and to get children out of cars by the tennis courts. They asked what could be done to improve safety/reduce speeds. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has no powers regarding Highways; KCC are responsible for this. Cllr Boniface advised them to contact Highways at KCC. Cllr Harris stated that setting up an action group similar to the A21 Safety Group would be a good idea. The Clerk advised that the

proposed works needed to be added to the HIP and submitted to KCC. No decision was made on which items to prioritise on the HIP.

The residents reported that the chevron road sign at the junction with Swan Lane had been knocked over and had not been replaced. **Action: Clerk and residents to report damage to KCC and request their replacement (KCC Ref 691508)**

It was noted that gravel has accumulated at the junction of North Road and Chequers Road. This is a safety hazard as breaking vehicles are skidding on the gravel. **Action: Clerk to report to KCC.**

8. EV Chargers

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that this work may not be carried out. Public consultation will now take place to determine whether this work is required. **Action: Chairman.**

9. Closure of A262, March 2022

It was noted that the Clerk has written again to John Reynolds at KCC regarding this issue and requesting that the Parish Council is informed about proposed road closures much further in advance to allow for representation to be made.

10. HIP

Current projects, their priorities and progress were discussed.

1. The speed limit is currently being reduced at Iden Green.
2. No news on traffic calming by Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England school. The major issue being that the road layout and paths are unsuitable for the installation of warning signs and road signs.
3. Safety improvements on the High Street – KCC investigating the unique situation whereby the paths are shared by road users.
4. Reduction of speed limit from 40 to 30 mph Blue Coat Lane to Spelmonden – despite this road being an accident black spot, this issue is considered a lower priority.

Action: Cllr Harris to write an article for the website detailing the safety issues relating to the High Street.

11. Parking at Tattlebury Triangle

It has been noted that commercial vehicles have been parked here day and night for a considerable period of time. Cllr Boniface asked whether traffic enforcement could be carried out. He was advised that this would be down to KCC as it is a highway and there would be a cost implication for the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Boniface to monitor and review.**

12. To Consider the Loss of Bus Services to Kilndown.

Cllr Knight stated that he had not received any complaints from residents. Clerk reported that she had only had one voice message and no contact details were left. Cllr Knight stated that if any complaints were received he would talk to the bus company.

13. Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 7.30pm, Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm