

Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL on Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Before the meeting was convened, there was public participation but no requests to speak had been received.

The meeting was convened

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors present: Cllrs Jill Andrew, David Boniface, Craig Broom, Antony Harris (Chairman), Phil Kirkby, David Knight (Borough Councillor), Geoff Mason, Barry Noakes, Caroline Richards and Alison Webster (arrived at 20.22).

Officers present: Claire Reed, Clerk; Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk and Panetta Horn, RFO.

APOLOGIES

018/23 Apologies were received from County Cllr Sean Holden. It was **noted** that Cllrs Barry Noakes and Oliver Tinkler were absent.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

019/23 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

020/23 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 March 2023, copies of which had been previously distributed to Members via Board Intelligence, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

021/23 Cllr David Knight reported

Bin collections. Collections are running behind following the bank holiday weekend but any missed bins will be collected tomorrow.

My TWBC. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the email alerts which contain information about bin collections, events and etc. It was agreed that a link to the sig up page should be added to the next E-newsletter. **Action: Clerk**

MATTERS ARISING (NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE)

022/23 Council received the minutes of the two Annual Parish Meetings. Clarification was sought on two items.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

023/23 **Elections 2023.** It was noted that the elections in all three wards are uncontested and that four existing councillors are stepping down. They were thanked by the members present for their contribution.

024/23 **Outstanding Actions.** The Chairman asked the Clerks to prepare a list of outstanding actions for the new council so that these can be prioritised and/ or reassigned. **Action: Clerks**

CLERK'S REPORT

025/23 The Clerk, Mrs Claire Reed, reported:
Parish Elections 2023. The Clerk is in communication with the three new members and is arranging to on-board them with the necessary training and email/BI accounts.

ACCOUNTS

The Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs Panetta Horn, reported:

026/23 **Council noted the summary of receipts and payments in March 2023:**

Receipts UTB in March 2023

Amenities	£ 300.00
Burial Authority	£9,360.00
Rental – Mary Days garages	£774.00
Coronation ticket sales	£2,561.80
Receipts CCLA in March 2023	£61.73
Total Receipts	£13,057.53

Payments in March 2023

UTB	£23,483.64
(Transfer unity to CCLA	£75,000)
CCLA	£0.00
Total	£23,483.64

Cash Balances at Bank on 31st March 2023

UTB	£52,207.56
Natwest	£0
CCLA	£95,973.00
Total	£148,180.56

027/23 Council **resolved** to approve the payments for April 2023 as presented at the meeting and detailed in Appendix 2.

RESOLUTIONS

028/23 Council **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £1,770.00 to hire a large screen to be situated in the marquee over the Coronation weekend.

029/23 Council **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £1,550.00 to hire furniture for the marquee for the Coronation celebrations.

030/23 Council **resolved** to approve the expenditure of up to £3,000.00 for any additional items needed for the Coronation celebrations. This expenditure should be reported to Council at the next meeting.

031/23 Council **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £2,490.00 for a new information board on The Plain.

- 032/23 Council **resolved** to defer a decision on the proposal to move any budget underspend into ear marked reserves for a shelter on Goudhurst village green until June. The RFO will present end of year figures to the May meeting. **Action: RFO**
- 033/23 Council **resolved** to approve the expenditure of up to £3,000 for costs associated with the appeal against planning application 22/01066.

BURIAL AUTHORITY

- 034/23 Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on 21 March 2023. The following decisions were noted:
- Hedge on the eastern boundary of the Burial Ground.** Further quotations are being sought for the works. A decision on cutting back the hedge will be postponed pending the drafting of the new green spaces management plan.
- Trees in the Victorian Cemetery.** A cypress growing out of a grave in the Victorian cemetery is to be felled, subject to a diocesan faculty, the crown is to be raised on an adjacent cypress to approx. 3m to improve visibility across the valley.
- Green Spaces Management.** A virtual meeting will be held with God Own Acre, a charity promoting bio diversity in cemeteries, to discuss ideas for a management plan to help preserve heritage and support wildlife in the cemeteries. Following the meeting, a working group will be established to draft a management plan.
- Memorial testing.** The Burial Authority have offered to host a memorial testing course being run by the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management. By hosting the course, the Burial Authority will have two free places on the course. However, the course will only go ahead if there is enough interest.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- 035/23 Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 21 March 2023. The following decisions were noted:
- Proposal from TrailTale to create an historic trail of Goudhurst village.** The Clerk has requested feedback from Sevenoaks District Council who have a trail and will investigate alternative providers.
- Tree works.** A small decayed oak tree on Goudhurst Village Green will be felled and the crown of a nearby cherry tree that is affecting neighbouring trees will also be reduced by 40%.
- Pétanque.** Clerks have been asked to submit a funding application to Cllr Sean Holden for a new pétanque court.
- Outdoor Gym for the Village Green.** This proposal is being explored and costed so that a decision can be made on the viability of the project.
- Cycle Racks.** Goudhurst Club has agreed to site the racks on their land. The Clerks are investigating possible designs and costs.
- Goudhurst Village Pond.** A draft management plan for the pond is being drawn up.

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

- 036/23 It was noted that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 04 April will be circulated to members. **Action: Clerks**

BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

037/23 **Coronation Celebrations.** So far £16k has been promised in sponsorship and from ticket sales. The event budget is around £20k and there is expected to be a surplus owing to income from sales over the weekend. It was agreed that council should advertise the fact that the event will be cost negative and that all events (except the Friday night ball) are free to attend.

038/23 **Income from Coronation celebrations.** The possibility of creating a new Charitable trust was considered. It was **agreed** to add the item to the agenda for discussion at the June council meeting. Cllr Jill Andrew agreed to investigate.

YOUTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

039/23 **Social Housing Stock.** It was **noted** that the quality of housing stock was a concern and that the communal areas are not being well looked after.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

040/23 **Recent planning Applications;** Please see Appendix 1.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

041/23 There were none.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

042/23 Parish Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday 16 May 2023 at 7.00pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.15

Claire Reed, Clerk