

Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL
on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 7.00pm 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 Craig Broom, Antony Harris, Ed Hodgskin, Suzie Kember, Phil Kirkby, David Knight (Borough Councillor), Geoff Mason, Paul Wareham and Alison Webster (Borough Councillor).

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

Others present: 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES

123/23 Apologies were received from Cllr Ed Read-Cutting (family illness) and Caroline Richards (holiday).

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

124/23 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

125/23 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16 May 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

126/23 **Borough Cllr David Knight reported:**

TWBC Residents Survey. The survey opened on 12 June and residents will be receiving information through the post soon.

Bin collections. Collections are changing from 03 July 2023 for reasons of efficiency. New collection dates can be found at: Twbc.online/newcollectionday.

TWBC appointment. Cllr David Knight has been appointed as Rural Communities Champion to focus on the needs of the rural areas of the borough.

Boundary Commission. As previously reported, Goudhurst Parish will be merged with Brenchley & Matfield, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst in a new ward. However, the name of the new ward does not include Brenchley & Matfield. A new name for the ward, Rural Tunbridge Wells, has been proposed and has been agreed by group leaders at TWBC. William Benson will write to the Boundary Commission with the proposal but requests that parish councils confirm to him that they are happy with the proposed name change. **Action: Clerk/ Chairman to write to William Benson to confirm acceptance of the new name, 'Rural Tunbridge Wells'.**

Councillors Convention. The first part of the convention will take place on 20 June 2023 and is for (borough) councillors and Parish Chairman to discuss priorities for the next four years. The outcome of the sessions, along with feedback from the residents' survey, will feed into the second part of the convention later this year.

127/23 *Borough Cllr Alison Webster reported:*

Licencing and Full Council Training. Cllr Webster will be taking part in these in the coming weeks.

TWBC appointment. Cllr Alison Webster has been appointed to the Rural Communities and Economic development advisory board.

Parking at Dunorlan Park. TWBC are considering charging for car parking at the park.

Vehicle enforcement in Royal Tunbridge Wells. The total fines levied on owners whose vehicles were found to be in the area near the war memorial on Mount Pleasant Road in Royal Tunbridge Wells during the restricted period amounts to £290k.

Planning Application at Catholic church, Beresford Road. There is a boundary dispute over the land between the church and neighbouring properties. Boundary disputes are not a planning issue.

KMTV filming in Goudhurst. KMTV will be interviewing Cllr David Knight regarding the extended lorries permitted in new legislation and their impact on Goudhurst village.

A question was raised: Is the new call for sites just for the town centre only? The borough councillors agreed to confirm the details. *Post meeting note: the call for sites is for town centre sites only.*

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

128/23 A question was asked by Mr Stephen Wickham regarding permission for parking on Goudhurst Village Green for a Wedding.

It was resolved to move item 10 forward.

USE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN

129/23 It was **resolved** to delegate authority to the clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to make decisions relating to requests for the use of the Village Green for the benefit of the community including, but not limited to, parking on the Green in connection with church events. Users may be asked for a donation for the use of the Green to contribute to maintenance costs.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

130/23 The Chairman updated members on the Parish Chairman's Group meeting at TWBC and on suggested priorities to take to the Councillors convention.

CLERK'S REPORT

131/23 The Clerk, Mrs Claire Reed, updated council on current projects. The report can be found at Appendix 1.

CASUAL VACANCY

132/23 It was **noted** that the casual vacancy, created by the failure to complete a declaration of acceptance to office within the proper time of Councillor Jill Andrew, has been

advertised in accordance with proper procedures and that the deadline for electors to request an election is 23 June 2023.

INSURANCE

133/23 It was **noted** that, in consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk had authorised the renewal of council's insurance policy for 2023-24. This was under regulation 4.5 of the Finance Regulations which permits the Clerk to authorise expenditure on behalf of the council in cases of extreme risk to the delivery of council services. The cost of the policy for 2023-24 is £2,039.19.

ACCOUNTS

The Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs Panetta Horn, reported:

134/23 Council **noted** the summary of receipts and payments in May 2023:

Receipts UTB in May 2023

Amenities	£ 0.00
Burial Authority	£740.00
Rental – Mary Days garages	£0.00
Precept	£0.00
Coronation	£6,068.28

Receipts CCLA in March 2023 £308.43

Total Receipts £7,116.71

Payments in May 2023

UTB	£22,750.76
CCLA	£0.00
Total	£22,750.76

Cash Balances at Bank on 31st March 2023

UTB	£112,353.92
CCLA	£96,477.05
Total	£208,830.97

135/23 Council **resolved** to approve the payments for June 2023 as presented at the meeting and detailed in Appendix 2.

136/23 Council **resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23. The Chairman and the Clerk signed and dated the Statement on behalf of the Council.

137/23 Council **resolved** to approve the Accounting Statements and supporting documents as provided by the Responsible Finance Officer who had prior to the meeting signed and dated Section 2 of the AGAR for 2022-23. The Chairman signed and dated the Accounting Statement on behalf of the Council. The Council **noted** the period for the Exercise of Public Rights from Monday 19 June – Friday 04 August 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

138/23 It was **resolved** that the adopted complaints policy is sufficient and that a complaint review committee is not needed. It was resolved to establish a new complaints email

address but no decision was made on who would be responsible for checking the emails. **Action: Clerk.**

139/23 Council to **resolved** to book Goudhurst Village Hall for council meetings on a quarterly basis and that the Clerk should again approach the Hall Committee to see if a more favourable rate can be negotiated. **Action: Clerk**

140/23 Council **resolved** to adopt the new Risk Management Schedule.

141/23 Council **resolved** to approve the revised Financial Regulations.

It was resolved to extend the meeting.

142/23 Council **agreed** to leave the TV currently situated in the Jessel Room of the Village Hall in situ for the time being.

143/23 Council **resolved** to move all staff salary payments to Standing Orders.

144/23 Council **resolved** to retain the adopted Standing Orders without the proposed amendments.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

145/23 It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 23 May 2023 and the following decisions were noted:
Cllr David Knight was elected as committee Chair;
To proceed with the purchase of 2no. 6 bike cycle racks to be installed at Goudhurst Club and Balcombes Hill Car Park;
To accept the quotation of £450.00 from John Fermor to repair the existing tree seat on The Plain;
To establish a working party to draft and collate the text and images for the new information board on The Plain.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

146/23 ***Recent planning Applications;*** Please see Appendix 3.

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was resolved to excluded members of the public and press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

FUNDING FOR POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ASSETS

147/23 It was **resolved** to investigate funding available for potential community assets.

148/23 It was **resolved** to establish a working group to investigate potential funding and to appoint Cllrs David Knight, Phil Kirkby, Edward Hodgskin as members along with Panetta Horn as advisor.

149/23 It was **resolved** to delegate responsibility for responding to a specific parishioners concerns to a designated councillor.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

150/23 There were none.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

151/23 Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7.00pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.50

Claire Reed, Clerk

DRAFT

Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 13 June 2023

Clerks Report to Council 13 June 2023

Project Updates

Renovations to the public toilets following December's arson attack are due to begin on 03 July. There has been delay due to additional works needing approval from the insurance company and delays in sourcing materials.

The rotten posts around The Plain have finally been replaced.

New cycle racks have been ordered to be located at Balcombes Hill carpark and one at Goudhurst Club.

The Amenities Committee have accepted a quotation for repairs to the bench around the chestnut tree on The Plain. Works will begin this month.

The new CCTV cameras covering the church wall have already proved invaluable. They have been able to collect the number plate details of a vehicle involved in a collision just out of sight of the cameras and recorded the very recent damage to the signage and wooden posts in front of the church wall caused by a lorry. The incident has been reported to KCC and the Assistant Clerk has been in contact with the haulage firm.

Quotes are being sought from the new CCTV contractor to bring all of Council's cameras, including those at the public toilets, onto one system which can be accessed remotely.

A grant application has been submitted to KCC for a pétanque court. The process has been delayed by the recent elections and the bringing forward of the closing date which was not advertised to applicants. We are awaiting confirmation from County Cllr Holden that he is still willing to support the application.

All of the graffiti in Goudhurst has now been removed, the alleged perpetrator has been charged by the police and is awaiting a court date.

Following the decision to stop spraying weeds in the burial ground for a trial period, a working party has spent a number of hours hand pulling weeds in the ashes plots. The group is looking for new more volunteers and a notice will be sent out in the next church e-newsletter.

A new blog discussing how the Parish can be 'greener', written by Cllr Geoff Mason, has appeared in the e-newsletter.

An application was made in January to install Commonwealth War Grave signage in the Goudhurst cemeteries. Unfortunately, this is still with the Diocese awaiting approval. Clerks continue to chase.

Clerks have negotiated a new rate for the emptying of the bin in the burial ground which equates to a saving of circa £1,300.

The Planning and Enforcement Appeals for the Smiths Lane site are scheduled to take place on the 12 July at 10am in the Town Hall. Cllrs Craig Broom and Antony Harris are registered to attend on behalf of the parish.

Claire Reed
Clerk

Appendix 2 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 13 June 2023

Accounts Payable to 08.06.2023

Supplier	Description	Gross	Net	VAT Code	Vat
Chris Smith	Printing Leaflets and Posters for Coronation Printing	64.00	53.33	s	10.67
Ann Millward	16.5 hours @ £12 Digitisation burial records	198.00	198.00	z	0.00
Zurich	1/6/23 - 31/5/24 Insurance Premium	2,039.19	1,820.70	S	218.49
Tait	Replacement Gate at Plain	2,523.91	2,103.26	S	420.65
Rialtas	Year End Shutdown	906.00	755.00	S	151.00
Nisbetts	Stationery	214.14	178.45	s	35.69
Envirocure	L8 Control May (Pavilion and Toilets)	119.10	99.25	s	19.85
Capel Groundcare	Lower Glebe Mow for Coronation	810.00	675.00	s	135.00
Capel Groundcare	Credit note applied to above invoice	-408.00	-340.00	s	-68.00
Mulberry	Annual Year End Audit	309.60	258.00	s	51.60
Pear Technology	Mapping	30.00	25.00	s	5.00
Fermor	Repairs to Bus Shelter	1,250.00	1,250.00	z	0.00
Board Intelligence	Annual Software Cost	3,000.00	2,400.00	S	600.00

Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 13 June 2023

Application	Address	Proposal	GPC	TWBC
22/03632	Ballards House, Ballards Hill, Goudhurst	Demolition of existing bungalow and detached garage. Creation of two storey dwelling	Approve	Permitted
22/00487	Walled Garden, Bedgebury Pinetum,	Expansion of car park and installation of new foot path	Approve	Permitted
23/00045	Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst.	Retrospective - resurfacing work to path & replacement fencing to the south of the Old Castle.	Approve	Permitted
23/00054	Hillside Farm , Ranters Lane, Goudhurst, Cranbrook,	Installation of 2 EV charging points	Approve	Permitted
23/00134	The Bramlings, Beaman Close, Goudhurst,	Fenestration alterations	Approve	Permitted
23/00204	Land Opposite Ranters End, Ranters Lane, Goudhurst,	To renew and make permanent, planning permission for the storage of 2 touring caravans when not in use by the applicant and occasional short term use by direct	Refuse and Escalate Policy L10 – Protected View Policy L1 – Development within the AONB	Permitted

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		family members as overnight accommodation		
23/00207	The Spinney , North Road, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, KENT TN17 1AS	New garage at road level with brick supporting structure under for form domestic storage.	Approve	Permitted
23/00302	Marlingate Farmhouse Bedgebury Road Goudhurst	Non-Material Amendment in relation to 21/01440/FULL - (Addition of an air source heat pump to the northern aspect of the site.)	Approve	Permitted
23/00307	Paines Farm House Ranters Lane Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent	Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 21/01971/FULL (Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling and garage. Including associated landscape works) - Change proposed cladding material on the rear elevation of the proposed extensions	Approve	Permitted
23/00314	Marlingate Farmhouse Bedgebury Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent	Installation of 39 PV panels, demolition of asbestos roof and sheet cladding, installation of metal roof and timber cladding to existing barn	Approve	Permitted

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23/00372/FULL	Land adjacent to the Old Parsonage, Balcombes Hill, Goudhurst	Erection of 14 dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure	Approve	
23/00477/FULL	Marlingate Farmhouse Bedgebury Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent	Creation of new access and driveway, closure of existing vehicular access, removal of outbuilding with associated landscaping alterations	Defer to Highways	
23/00498/FULL	Chingley Manor , London Road, Flimwell, Wadhurst	Conversion of existing barn to residential dwelling with demolition of existing range and with single storey extension. Associated external works including landscaping to areas and domestic curtilage.	Approve	Permitted
23/00505/FULL	The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church Beresford Road Goudhurst	Demolition of the sacristy, boiler room and outbuildings, Erection of single storey extension to provide meeting room, kitchen, sacristy and disabled toilet, Provision of improved pedestrian access, Resurfacing of and improved layout of car park	Approve	

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23/00535/NMAM D	Whitestocks Farm Bedgebury Road Goudhurst	Non-Material Amendment in relation to 22/03169/FULL - (Replace the approved high to gable extension with a smaller dormer window, clay tile cheeks/roof, oak picture frame front fascia and fixed glazed picture window)	Approve	Permitted
23/00669/FULL	The Barn , London Road, Flimwell, Wadhurst, Kent,	Change of use of eastern bay of building for storage for use by brewery to create mixed use of building (brewery and tap room). Minor change to hours of opening of associated taproom	Approve	
23/00728/FULL	Lodge Nursery , Lidwells Lane, Goudhurst, Cranbrook	Conversion of outbuilding to new dwelling with extension, demolition of separate annex polytunnels, creation of separate access, landscape enhancements (Alternative to 22/00894/FULL)	Approve	Permitted
23/00795/FULL	Little Meadow, Station Road, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, TN17 1EZ	Removal of Condition 2 of Planning Permission WE/5/51/140 (Erection of an agricultural dwelling) Removal of agricultural occupancy	Defer to TWBC	Permitted
23/00889/FULL	Paines Farm House, Ranters Lane,	Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 21/01971/FULL - Amend approved drawings to replace doors to match consented dining room doors	Approve	Permitted

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23/00938/FULL	The Old Parsonage Balcombes Hill Goudhurst	Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 20/03452/FUL - Minor improvements to improve bungalow A accessibility	Approve	
23/01072/FULL	First Cottage North Road Goudhurst	Replace and reinstate front door, Restoration of damaged dwarf wall, Installation of metal railings to dwarf wall	Approve subject to the views of the Conservation Officer and conditional on the front wall remaining as existing i.e. brick without rendering	
23/01078/FULL	St Marys Church High Street Goudhurst Cranbrook	Works to a section of stone retaining wall including lowering and repairing on the north west side of the churchyard	Comments: The committee raised recent changes in legislation which allows lorries to be 2 metres longer than the existing regulations. Do the calculations for the lowered section of wall take account of this change and allow for these longer vehicles to safely clear the wall? The committee also raised concerns over the railings, it would like to see the railings installed in sections to prevent a large section being pulled away by the back or end of a lorry or trailer when turning. The committee would also like to see provision for posts to add additional protection for the wall.	