

# Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
on Tuesday 11 July 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 (Chairman), Edward Hodgskin, Suzie Kember, Phil Kirkby, Geoff Mason, Ed Read-Cutting and Paul Wareham.

**Officers present:** Claire Reed, Clerk; Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk.

**Others present:** Julia Kigge.

### APOLOGIES

210/23 Apologies were received from Cllr David Knight (TWBC meeting), Caroline Richards (holiday) and Alison Webster (TWBC meeting).

### DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

211/23 There were none.

### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

212/23 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 June 2023 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 27 June 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

213/23 There were no reports.

### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

214/23 There were none.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Antony Harris reported:

215/23 **Councillor Convention.** The Chairman updated members on the Councillor Convention held at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on 02 June. His report can be found at Appendix 1.

**KALC Area Committee meeting.** All of the Chairmen from TW Parish Councils met for the first time since the elections in May.

### CLERK'S REPORT

216/23 The Clerk updated council on current projects. The report can be found at Appendix 2.

## ACCOUNTS

217/23 Council **noted** the summary of receipts and payments in June 2023:

### **Receipts UTB in May 2023**

Amenities	£0.00
Burial Authority	£825.00
Rental – Mary Days garages	£573.00
Precept	£0.00
Coronation	£2,360.70
<b>Receipts CCLA in June 2023</b>	<b>£308.62</b>

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£4,139.32</b>
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### **Payments in May 2023**

UTB	£23,317.51
CCLA	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,317.51</b>

### **Cash Balances at Bank on 31st March 2023**

UTB	£92,892.61
CCLA	£96,857.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>£189,750.28</b>

218/23 Council **resolved** to approve the payments for July 2023 as presented at the meeting and detailed in Appendix 3.

219/23 It was **resolved** that Cllrs Geoff Mason and Craig Broom would approve the payments on UTB.

## RESOLUTIONS

220/23 It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Edward Hodgskin as Charity Trustee of Goudhurst Village Hall. **Action: Clerk to inform the Trustees of Goudhurst Village Hall.**

221/23 It was **resolved** to take part in the celebrations to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day by lighting the beacon adjacent to Goudhurst Village green. The possibility of other events was proposed and it was **agreed** that this should be discussed further at a later date. The Clerk was asked to contact the Goudhurst Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) to coordinate plans. **Action: Clerk to agenda further discussions and to contact Goudhurst RBL.**

222/23 It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £1,000 for legal costs.

## HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

223/23 It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on 27 June 2023. The following decisions were noted:

Cllr Craig Broom was elected as Chair;

The EV chargers on Balcombes Hill will not be replaced;

A North Road working group will be established to discuss traffic issues and to decide on any action needed.

#### BURIAL AUTHORITY

- 224/23 It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on 04 July 2023. The following decisions were noted:  
Cllr Caroline Richards was elected as Chair;  
The Clerk has delegated authority to approve memorial applications which comply with the regulations;  
A new memorial bench will be established in the Burial Ground where families can purchase memorial plaques.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 225/23 It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 04 July 2023. The following decisions were noted:  
Cllr Craig Broom was elected as Chair;  
Accounting procedures will be changed to allow for automation of payment lists between the bank and accounting system;  
A new accounts summary report will be presented at the monthly council meeting;  
A new budget line has been added to this year's budget for professional fees;  
Grants to Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre; the KSS Air Ambulance Charity; Tunbridge Wells and District Samaritans and West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association were approved.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 226/23 **Recent planning Applications;** Please see Appendix 4.  
227/23 It was **noted** that the appeal against refusal of planning permission for the mobile home at Crowbourne Orchard, Smiths Lane will be heard on Wednesday 12 July at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall at 10am. Cllrs Antony Harris and Craig Broom are registered to speak.

***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.***

#### STAFFING

- 228/23 It was **resolved** to accept the proposal as presented at the meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 229/23 **Meeting Locations.** It was **noted** that a letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee regarding hire costs for 2023-24. It was **agreed** to add meeting cost and locations to the agenda for the August Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**  
230/23 **IT systems.** The report from Cllr Craig Broom was noted. It was agreed to add the item to the agenda for the August Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- 231/23 Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 08 August 2023 at 7.00pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.50

Claire Reed, Clerk

## Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023

### Report on TW Councillor Convention 2 June 2023 - AH

#### Work Group Infrastructure 1

Made up of

2 County Councillors (2 Cons)

3 Borough Councillors (2 Lab, ,1 Lib Dem)

2 Borough Councillors/Parish Councillors (1 Alliance/1 Lab)

1 Parish Councillor (Chairman) Me

With the help of William's introductory remarks (see his slides) we (1<sup>st</sup> Infrastructure) endeavoured to identify some of the key issues that should be part of an **Integrated TW Plan**. We took this approach rather than dealing with the challenges as a collection of individual disconnected points and issues.

Our reasoning seemed to be that TW could have a great future and not just past.

That we had a better opportunity to engage and enthuse the community (as with our table) with an exciting comprehensive and linked up **Plan**; one that recognised the reality of the problems (facing us and probably our country) and try to develop and propose a logical and realistic solution.

Our Plan specifically identified key issues as:

- Social changes, AI, Climate, Mobility, no money, no government etc...
- Aging and slightly growing population in TW
- Too many retirement homes being built, (bringing in the elderly) > aggravating the TW aging profile.
- Departing youth > no accommodation, opportunities, training > reason to stay.
- Insufficient accommodation for the young > being built > to rent or buy.
- No linked together employment and skills plan > developed in partnership with business and employers.
- No linked-up skills and training follow through with education/colleges (in or around TW).
- Declining town centre and empty shops.
- No apparent linked-up retail and hospitality masterplan with full business engagement.

I think we identified that the classical route, dealing with disparate stakeholder organisations separately > KCC, Education, Government, and all sorts of quangos > was almost designed to prevent a comprehensive and thereby successful outcome.

I noted our conclusions (as far as it was possible to hear) were reported back by the Rapporteur was reported as individual points and did not indicate the joined-up nature of our conclusions, so....

## Appendix 2 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023

### Clerks Report to Council 11 July 2023

#### Project Updates

Renovations to the public toilets following December's arson attack have begun, they are expected to take 4 weeks to complete. A complaint against the contractor has been lodged with Zurich due to the delays and the contractor rejecting material choices 2 working days before the works were due to start. The toilets have been entered into this year's Loo of the Year competition.

One of the new posts on the Plain (on the driveway to the Hall) has been struck by a vehicle, the owner has contacted the office. Clerks are sourcing quotes for the repairs.

The tree seat on the Plain has been repaired and stained.

Cycle stands to be placed on Balcombes Hill and at the Social Club have been ordered and the invoice appears on this month's payments. There is a 2-week wait for delivery.

CCTV has been installed at the Star & Eagle to monitor the church wall. One of the cameras is currently off line and we are chasing the contractors for a repair date. Clerks are also awaiting a quote to combine all of the cameras onto one system with remote access.

The working group is collating content for the new information board for The Plain and it is hoped this will be ready for production in the coming weeks.

We have had confirmation from Sean Holden that he is willing to support a grant for the Petanque pitch however, due to budget cuts, the grant offered will be £500.

All monies paid for the cleaning on private property have now been recovered from the residents. We are awaiting a date for the court hearing for the perpetrator.

I have written to William Benson, CEO of TWBC to confirm council's support for the proposed ward name change for the new electoral ward encompassing Matfield, Brenchley, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst and Goudhurst. The proposed name is Rural Tunbridge Wells.

Following agreement from council, the Village Hall has been booked every Tuesday evening for the next 3 months. The clerk is awaiting confirmation from the Committee, following their meeting last week, of any discount in the rate to be offered to the council for the block booking.

The Planning Appeal for application 22/01066, The Mobile Home at Crowbourne Orchard Smiths Lane, (and associated enforcement notice) will take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday 12 July. Cllrs Antony Harris and Craig Broom as registered to speak at the hearing and a meeting has been arranged for those Cllrs to meet with TWBC planning officers.

Clerk met with Highways officers last week to discuss the placement of a replacement village sign for North Road. We are awaiting a quotation for the sign.

The pot holes on Balcombes Hill and constant stream of water have been reported to Highways along with the debris collecting at the junction with North Road and Chequers Road.

A new volunteer group has been established to weed and tidy the graves in the Burial Ground and Victorian Cemetery. The group will meet fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon (2pm) for 'Weedy

## **Appendix 2 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

Wednesday!' Information will be placed on the Burial Ground noticeboard, in the e-newsletter and in the church newsletter – all volunteers are welcome!

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, we are awaiting a revised contract.

Claire Reed  
Clerk

**Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

**Accounts Payable - additional payments for authorisation**

<b>Payment Ref</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT Code</b>	<b>Vat</b>
23085	Amazon	Stationery and Office Supplies	50.20	41.83	s	8.37
23086	St Mary's Church	Reimbursement for Electricity for Coronation Event	90.02	90.02	Z	0.00
23087	SLCC	Annual Membership - Clerk	279.00	279.00	z	0.00
23088	SLCC	Planning Summit Training	72.00	60.00	s	12.00
23089	KALC	Finance for Councillors Training	48.00	40.00	S	8.00
23090	Loo of the Year	Entry fee for Loo of the Year	207.60	173.00	s	34.60
23091	REED	Expenses (Refreshments £7.65, May and June mileage £11.25)	18.90	18.90	z	0.00
23092	HMRC	June Tax and NI	1,001.57	1,001.57	OTS	0.00
23093	Groundscare	Monthly Maint St Marys	1,600.32	1,333.60	s	266.72
23094	HMRC	May Tax and NI	1,001.57	1,001.57	OTS	0.00
23095	HMRC	July Tax and NI	1,001.57	1,001.57	OTS	0.00

**Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

23097	Bailey Street Furniture	Purchase of Cycle Rack	573.54	477.95	s	95.59
23098	B&K	Electrical Work at Toilets	559.92	466.60	s	93.32
23099	Envirocure	Monthly Legionella testing	61.50	51.25	s	10.75
23100	Communicorp	Annual subscription	14.00	14.00	Z	0
23101	GVH	Booking for Aug meeting	15.00	15	z	0



**Appendix 4 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 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

**Appendix 4 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

		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

**Appendix 4 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

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	
23/00535/NMAM D	Whitestocks Farm Bedgebury	Non-Material Amendment in relation to 22/03169/FULL - (Replace the approved hig to gable extension with a smaller dormer	Approve	Permitted

**Appendix 4 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

	Road Goudhurst	window, clay tile cheeks/roof, oak picture frame front fascia and fixed glazed picture window)		
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 dwellin) 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
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	

**Appendix 4 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

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.	