

Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7.00pm in the Church Rooms

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

The meeting was convened

A minute's silence was held in memory of long serving Clerk, Anthony Farnfield MBE who died in August.

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors present: Cllrs Craig Broom, Edward Hodgskin, Julia Kiggell, David Knight, Geoff Mason, Ed Read-Cutting, Caroline Richards (Chairman), Paul Wareham and Alison Webster (arrived at 8.04pm).

Officers present: Claire Reed, Clerk.

Others present: County Cllr Seán Holden

APOLOGIES

309/23 Apologies were received from Cllrs Antony Harris (working) and Phil Kirkby (holiday). It was **noted** that Cllr Suzie Kember was absent.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

310/23 There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

311/23 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 08 August 2023 and the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 August 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

312/23 **County Councillor Sean Holden briefed council on:**

- Efforts by Goudhurst Traffic Action Group, in conjunction with Sissinghurst and Benenden Parish Councils, to submit a new application for the downgrading of the A262 to a b road.
- The impact of lorries on the Kent Road Network.
- The increase in road closures in the county since 2019.
- The expected Budget Deficit for 2023-24
- The Council's 'Plan Bee' strategy has won a national award.

313/23 **Borough Cllr David Knight briefed council on:**

- The appeal decision for Crowbourne Orchard, Smiths Lane is still outstanding.
- The granting of planning permission at Lurkins Rise despite local objection.
- The forecast budget deficit for 2023-24.

- A possible reduction in the allocation of new housing to Paddock Wood and Capel.
- Councillor Pamela Wilkinson has replaced Cllr Wendy Fitsimmons as Cabinet Member for Sport, Leisure and Health

314/23 **Borough Cllr Alison Webster briefed council on:**

- A consultation on plans to make all taxis in the town electric.
- Changes in animal welfare licences.
- The performance of TWBC Licencing.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

315/23 The Chairman's report was read to the Council, it can be found at Appendix 1.

CLERK'S REPORT

316/23 The Clerk updated council on current projects. The report can be found at Appendix 2.

ACCOUNTS

317/23 Council **noted** the summary of receipts and payments in August 2023:

Receipts UTB in August 2023

Amenities	£0.00
Burial Authority	£605.00
Rental – Mary Days garages	£708.00
Rates Rebate	£286.00

Receipts CCLA in August 2023

	£363.00
Total Receipts	£1,962.00

Payments in August 2023

UTB	£18,693.00
CCLA	£0.00
Total	£18,693.00

Cash Balances at Bank

UTB at 31 st August 2023	£63,932.00
CCLA at 31 st July 2023	£97,221.00
Total	£161,153.00

318/23 Council **resolved** to approve the payments for September 2023 as presented at the meeting and detailed in Appendix 3.

319/23 It was **resolved** that Cllrs Geoff Mason and Craig Broom would approve the electronic payments on UTB.

320/23 It was **resolved** to request that a refund for rental charges at the Parish Office be offset against future electricity charges. **Action: RFO**

RESOLUTIONS

- 321/23 Council, having satisfied itself that it meets the criteria, **resolved** to adopt the General Power of Competence in line with the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) 2012.
- 322/23 It was **resolved** to hold all council and committee meetings in the Church Rooms, Back Lane until the end of the financial year (March 2024). The location of meetings after March 2024 will be reviewed in January 2024. **Action: Clerk to agenda for January 2024.**
- 323/23 It was **resolved** to establish a working group to carry out further due diligence around potential future investment in a community asset.
- 324/23 It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of up to £3,000 for professional fees relating to the potential investment in a community asset.
- 325/23 It was **agreed** to postpone a discussion on D-Day 80 celebrations as Cllr Suzie Kember was absent.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- 326/23 It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 22 August 2023. The following decisions were noted:
- The approval of expenditure of £665 for the repainting of the Kilndown AED phone kiosk.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 327/23 **Recent planning Applications;** Please see Appendix 4.
- 328/23 It was **noted** that planning permission had been granted for 15 Lurkins Rise, against the views of the Parish Council and local residents. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head of Planning at TWBC, Carlos Hone, to establish the grounds for granting permission. **Action: Clerk.**
- 329/23 It was **noted** that the appeal decision against the refusal of planning permission for the mobile home at Crowbourne Orchard, Smiths Lane is still outstanding.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 330/23 It was **resolved** to submit two motions to the KALC AGM;
1. KALC to support Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council and surrounding parishes in the development of a coherent plan for secondary education.
 2. KALC to support the application to downgrade the A262 to a B-road.
- 331/23 It was **resolved** to delegate responsibility for responding to KCC's Emerging Local Transport Plan to the Highways Committee. **Action: Highways Committee**
- 332/23 It was **resolved** to delegate responsibility for responding to KCC's Family Hub Services Consultation to the Amenities Committee. **Action: Amenities Committee**
- 333/23 It was **resolved** to share the Kent & Medway's Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029 consultation on Facebook, noticeboards and in the public toilets.
- 334/23 It was **resolved** not to respond to the consultations on the proposed redesign of the Kent Community Warden service or Kent Resilience Forum's Community Resilience Survey.

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

335/23 It was **noted** that a number of applications had been received for the Assistant Clerk vacancy. The Clerk will notify those who have been invited for interview following the closing date of 18 September. **Action: Clerk**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

336/23 Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Church Rooms.

The meeting closed at 21.30

Claire Reed, Clerk

Appendix 1 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

GPC Chairman's Report

My apologies for being unable to attend this Council meeting. Best wishes and good luck to Caroline and all.

The TW area committee of KALC have accepted an invitation for GPC to host the pre-Christmas meeting which will be either Tuesday November 28th or Tuesday December 6th in Goudhurst Club. This is a good opportunity for councillors to host and meet neighbours.

Issues raised at the recent Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Area Committee meeting

1. Most parishes that have completed their NDPs are now starting their review/updates and suggest GPC considers doing the same. Suggest Clerk check with TWBC how much is needed, how big a job and timetable. Others are taking the opportunity of updating theirs in view of what they have learned and where possible how they may tighten up.
2. The fallout from the closure of High Weald Academy secondary school (preschool pending) and consequent bussing of children in all directions. Impact on all parishes including affected recipients and what to do about it. Cranbrook are hosting meetings on Wednesday Oct 4 in the afternoon and evening with local parliamentary candidates from major parties, representatives from TWBC, KCC, and many other organisations. There seems to have been much skulduggery behind the scenes. This is about schools, bussing, truancy, adult education etc.
3. KALC itself; membership and attendance at committee, lots of experience across Kent (parishes, boroughs, county etc.) but a very aging group and what to do about it.
4. Section.106 monies (developer contributions), how to prepare for it and how to secure it. It is understood that KALC offer a good training session on this.
5. Future of local government > likely reorganisation next government > will county & boroughs go, what of the parishes?
6. With elections coming next May there is paralysis at TWBC, no Borough plan, staff vacancies etc!!
7. KALC AGM, worthwhile for some councillors to join in, can be useful/interesting. Clerk to check the date and advise.

GPC Issues:

- I checked the lower glebe this morning, the eastern footpath will soon be impassable (nettles and bramble) and the area below the current burial area is now impassable.
- The area around the vicarage cesspit (or outflow); I was informed it had been attended to but with brambles and nettles 3-4 feet high not sure how likely, I suggest councillors go and see.
- There is a wasp nest in/above our refurbished bus stop. Action?
- Traveller site appeal - Inspectors decision expected soon.

Appendix 2 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

Clerks Report to Council 12 September 2023

Project Updates

Renovations to the public toilets following December's arson attack continue. Cllr Knight met with the contractors in August and they assured him that works would be complete by the end of September. Contractors are due on site this Thursday.

The cycle stands to be placed on Balcombes Hill and at the Social Club have arrived, the Clerk has requested a meeting with the maintenance contractor to confirm their location.

All cameras at the Star & Eagle (church wall) are back online and the Clerk now has remote access to the footage. They were able to record a recent collision between a car and HGV. The Clerk is awaiting a quote to combine all of the cameras onto one system with remote access.

Members of the Amenities Committee are planning to meet with a designer from the company producing the new information board on The Plain to finalise content and design in the coming weeks.

We are still awaiting approval from the Diocese for the removal of a very large self-seeded Cyprus tree growing out of a grave in the Victorian Cemetery – permission has been granted by TWBC and works were scheduled for September. The tree has badly damaged the grave and is beginning to encroach on a nearby war grave.

The Chairman of the PCC has offered to help Clerk identify the issue with the cess pit on the Lower Glebe Field. It is not clear if there is a leak or whether the cess pit is overflowing however, the growth around the area suggests additional 'fertilisation'. Clerks have requested evidence of the emptying but it has not been forthcoming. The issue has been raised with the current and previous land agents many times but has been ignored. As per the terms of the lease, the cess pit remains the responsibility of the diocese.

The rent due for the lease of the Glebe Fields has been reviewed in line with the terms of the lease and is to increase from £750 per annum to £997 as of 07 August 2023. Councillors will note that the invoice contained in the pack is for the original rental charge and we expect to receive a further invoice for the difference.

Two new memorial benches have arrived. One will replace a rotten bench in the south west corner of the Burial Ground and another the rusting picnic bench in the Play Area on Back Lane. Families will be able to purchase plaques (via the Burial Authority) to be installed on the benches. This will be a more cost-effective way for families to remember their loved ones and will limit the number of new benches.

A quote for a replacement Goudhurst Village sign for North Road has been received from KCC and will be considered by the Highways Committee at their next meeting later this month.

Council are still awaiting the outcome of the Planning Appeal for application 22/01066, The Mobile Home at Crowbourne Orchard Smiths Lane (and associated enforcement notice).

A further ventilation contractor has inspected the moisture problem in the Chequer Pavilion and has submitted a quotation for remedial works. They have suggested a damp specialist is consulted. This will be considered by the Youth Committee at their next meeting in October.

Appendix 2 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

The Clerk has submitted Council's decision regarding the allocation of s106 monies linked to the Old Parsonage development (recreational improvements to the Village Green including a youth shelter). TWBC Planning department are assessing whether the request fits within the original request and NDP priorities.

Having requested a reduction in the mowing of the Tattlebury Triangle by KCC, they have been in contact to inform the Council that the land is unregistered. It is proposed that GPC register the land.

The repainting of the Kilndown AED phone kiosk has begun but has halted due to the discovery of rot at the base of the nearby telegraph pole. Clerk has reported the issue to UKPN.

Wealden Young Farmers have set a provisional date for their fundraising Christmas tractor run. This will take place on 17 December between 5-7pm and will once again pass through Goudhurst on the A262.

Claire Reed
Clerk

Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

Accounts Payable September 2023

Payment Ref	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	Gross	Net	VAT Code	Authorisation Ref
23152		Goudhurst Club	Electricity for lighting of War Memorial. 2 years @£100 pa.	200.00	200.00	Z	Agreement
23153	10255	Community Heartbeat Trust	Donation for new defibrillator	1,930.00	1,930.00	Z	Council 297/22
23154	2040	F&C	Toilet Cleaning to 8/8	907.20	756.00	S	Contract
23155	6135343709	KALC	Climate Change Conference	60.00	50.00	S	Clerk's discretion
23156		Risebridge	Contribution to Oil	100.88	100.88	Z	Lease agreement
23157		Millward	19 hours Burial Digitisation	228.00	228.00	Z	Contract
23158	39838	Envirocure	L8 Testing Chq Field and Balcombe Toilets	119.10	99.25	S	Contract
23161	023-INV-224	Goudhurst Village Hall	Hop Pickers Heritage Group Committee Meeting	20.25	20.25	Z	Council 272/23
23161	2023-INV-223	Goudhurst Village Hall	Goudhurst Parish Council Meetings 13.06.23 – 22.08.23	128.00	128.00	Z	Budget
23162	2144	F&C	Toilet Cleaning to 05/09	883.20	736.00	S	Contract
23163	90051585	Wealden Group	Vacancy Advert	288.00	240.00	S	Council 281/23

Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

Accounts Payable September 2023

23164		Hodgskin	Cllr Expenses - training	32.21	32.21	Z	Council 271/23
23165	6429499239	KALC	The Dynamic Councillor training Faversham	144.00	120.00	S	Clerk's discretion
23166	6452766579	KALC	Post-Election Dynamic Councillor training	60.00	50.00	S	Clerk's discretion
23167		Claire Reed	Expenses	39.95	39.95	z	Contract

Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

Recommendations and Decisions August 2023

Application	Address	Proposal	GPC	TWBC
23/01482	Twyssenden Farmhouse, Priors Heath, Goudhurst	Convert existing conservatory into single storey extension with decking.	Approve	Permitted
23/01552/LBC	Church Cottage, High Street, Goudhurst	Repainting and repairs of chimney	Approve subject to views of Conservation Officer	Permitted
23/01616	15 Lurkins Rise, Goudhurst, Cranbrook	Proposed two storey rear extension and garage conversion	Refuse. The Committee would be willing to support the application conditional on the rear extension being single-storey. The committee recommend refusal on the basis of mass & scale and being contrary to Goudhurst NDP Policies D1a – respecting/ complementing in scale, massing and form the character of existing buildings in the locality; D1b – respecting established building lines, arrangements of rooflines (including chimneys), front gardens, and boundary treatments. The Committee also note the concern of neighbours with regard to loss of natural light and overshadowing resulting from the proposed two-storey rear extension.	Permitted
23/01559	The Chalet, North Road, Goudhurst, Cranbrook	Retrospective change of use from office to residential annex	Approve subject to property remaining as an annexe, ancillary to the main dwelling and not a separate, independent dwelling.	Permitted
23/01639/LBC	Goudhurst Ex-Servicemans Club,	Listed Building Consent - Replacement porch windows	Approve	Permitted

Appendix 3 to Minutes of a Council Meeting held on 12 September 2023

Recommendations and Decisions August 2023

	The Plain, Goudhurst			
23/01776/LBC	Paines Farm House Ranters Lane Goudhurst	Variation of Condition 2 of 23/01042/LBC - Alternative solution to second floor staircase	Approve subject to the views of the Conservation Officer.	Permitted
23/01808/LDC	Caravans 1 And 2 Risebridge Farm Peasley Lane Goudhurst TN17 1HP	Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) - Change of use for Caravan 1 to residential use (C3) and Caravan 2 to storage and accommodation	Approve - subject to continued use by Horse Sense business.	
23/01907	Greensleeves Station Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent	Single storey extension, removal of fenestration	Approve	
23/01981/SUB	The Barn London Road Flimwell Wadhurst Kent	Submission of Details in relation to Condition 10 - (Noise Management Plan) of 23/00669/FULL	Approve	