****Goudhurst Parish Council****

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 27 June 2023 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors Present:Cllrs Craig Broom, David Knight, Paul Wareham and Alison Webster.

Officers Present: Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk.

Others Present: Nine members of the public. (Three more members of the public arrived part way through the meeting).

# APOLOGIES

163/23 Apologies were accepted from Cllr Antony Harris (KALC). It was noted that Cllr Suzie Kember was absent.

# ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

164/23 Cllr Craig Broom was nominated by Cllr David Knight and this was seconded by Cllr Alison Webster and unanimously agreed. It was resolved that Cllr Broom would become Chairman of the Highways Committee.

# DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

165/23 There were none.

# MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

166/23 A member of the public **noted** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on 21 February 2023 had been posted on the website and not the minutes from the 4April 2023. Assistant Clerk to ensure minutes from 4 April are posted onto the website.

# QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

167/23 There were none.

# MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

168/23 Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) on Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.

The Committee received an update on the GTAG. It was noted that the Summer phase of speedwatch was about to commence and NRAG were asked if they would like to join. The Council were informed that around 450 vehicles travel through the speedwatch area in an hour, and out of these, 20 speed. The group would like to carry out this review on a Saturday too. The cameras on the Star & Eagle were proving to be very useful and it was noted that a video in which a lorry had become stuck on the corner of the high street, had gone viral. The Kent Messenger had been in contact but nothing came out of this. It was asked whether the number plates of offenders could be published. The Assistant Clerk investigated and found that “W**henever the footage or a picture of an individual is captured through the CCTV, that may be used to identify that person (directly or indirectly) it is considered to be personal data**.”

169/23 Campaign for A21 Safety improvements (SAG)

Mr Ted Bennett (Chair of the SAG) gave an update on the work carried out on the A21. He acknowledged that this had been the result of 5.5 years of work. Key achievements are:-

* Clearance of vegetation and overhanging trees
* Resurfacing
* Extension of double white lines
* Erection of Stonecrouch sign
* New road safety signs
* Speed reduction
* Red cats’ eyes on edge of the road

There are two outstanding actions:-

* Rosemary Lane junction still requires improvements
* Installation of average speed cameras

Ted Bennett gave the Assistant Clerk the contact details of those Officers that had been particularly helpful. Mr Bennett was asked by the NRAG whether they needed to go via the Parish Council or whether they could go directly to KCC. Mr Bennett was very complimentary about the assistance offered by the Parish Council and how effective it had proved to be.

170/23 Report from the Newly Formed North Road Action Group (NRAG)

Martin Roberts (Chairman of NRAG) stated that the work of the group had been issued to the Highways Committee Councillors. Cllr Wareham commented that their work looked very impressive and professional and that direct conversation was essential. Cllr Broom talked about the creation of a Highways working group which would run alongside the Highways Committee. The working group could identify and discuss issues. These issues and requests could then be brought to the Committee. The priorities and ownership of the HIP were discussed. Mr Bennett offered his assistance to the NRAG.

**Action** Chairman to advise Assistant Clerk on the inclusion of North Road issues. The Chairman asked for the speed data collated by the North Road residents. **Action** – Chairman to obtain this data from resident.

171/23 EV Chargers

The background of the EV Chargers was explained and the associated costs of updating the chargers identified. It was unanimously agreed that the EV chargers would not be replaced. **Resolved – EV chargers will not be replaced.**

172/23 Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Chairman had met with Nigel Rowe from KCC regarding the speed limit outside the school on the A262: he felt that this meeting had been positive.

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 nearby Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England school. The major issue being that the road layout and paths are unsuitable for the installation of illuminated warning signs and road signs.
3. Safety improvements on the High Street – all options explored and exhausted
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.

The need to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on North Road was discussed. It was **agreed** that the priorities of the NRAG needed to be identified via the working group and once established the key issue can be added to the HIP and prioritised accordingly. **Action: Chairman to liaise with NRAG, set up a meeting and identify priorities.**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

173/23

* Clerk will be meeting with KCC regarding the missing Goudhurst village sign along North Road.
* A member of the public asked about the village curtilage and boundary which Cllr Broom answered.
* How to get accident data – Mr Bennett said that personal data was best.
* Water flooding Chequers Road
* Gravel on road surface near Lidwells Lane.

# DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Highways Committee will take place on 26September 2023 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

Rebecca Barden

Assistant Clerk