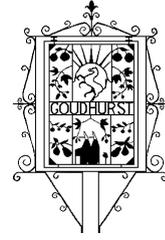


# Goudhurst Parish Council

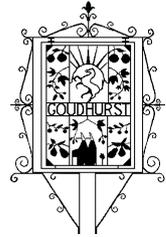


## Meeting of the Parish Council 10th February 2026

MEETING  
10 February 2026 19:30 GMT

PUBLISHED  
5 February 2026

# Goudhurst Parish Council



To: Members of Goudhurst Parish Council

I summon you to Meeting of Goudhurst Parish Council on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start in The Church Rooms, Back Lane, where business detailed on this agenda will be discussed. At 7.15pm, members of the public are invited to speak with Councillors, but the meeting will officially start at 7.30pm.

Members of the Public and the Press are welcome to attend this meeting and to ask questions or raise issues of local interest during the 7.15pm to 7.30pm session. Thereafter they are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting; members of the public are not permitted to speak during the remainder of the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1. Please note, Council cannot lawfully decide on items of business not specified on the published agenda although the Chairman may decide to refer any issues raised for further discussion (LGA 1972 Sch 12, 10 (2)(b)).

Please inform the Clerk, if you intend to film or record the Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Hoyle', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Hoyle  
Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council  
5<sup>th</sup> February 26

Parish Council Office – 3 Fountain House, High Street, Goudhurst, KENT. TN17 1AL  
01580 212552 | <https://goudhurst-pc.gov.uk>

Quorum for Council: 4 Members

# Agenda

Location	Date	Time
The Church Rooms, Back Lane, Goudhurst.	10 Feb 2026	19:30 GMT

Item	Page
7.15pm - prior to the start of the meeting. Questions and comments from members of the press and public.	-
This is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or raise issues of local interest. Thereafter they are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting (members of the public are not permitted to speak during the remainder of the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1. Please note, Council cannot lawfully decide on items of business not specified on the published agenda although the Chairman may decide to refer any issues raised for further discussion (LGA 1972 Sch 12 10 (2)(b)).	-
1 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given.	-
2 Declarations of Interest	-
3 To approve and sign as a correct record the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026	5
Members are reminded that only issues relating to material accuracy can be discussed.	-
4 To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors (limited to 10 minutes in total).	9
5 RFO Report	10
5.1 To resolve to approve payments for January 2026	-
5.2 To appoint two Councillors to authorise payments	-
6 To nominate two trustees for the Dorothy Bathurst Charity.	-
7 Resolutions	-
8 To review the draft meeting dates for 2026-27 and feedback any comments	14
9 Council to note they have completed their GDPR Training and raise any issues they may be having	-
10 To receive an update from the Emergency Plan Working Group	-
11 To receive an update on the Local Government Reorganisation	-
12 Council to note the minutes of the following Committees and the decisions made	-
13 Highways Committee held on 27th January 2026	-
13.1 Following an online meeting with MP Mike Martin, satnav providers are updating HGV routing, a "Name and Shame" reporting initiative is being launched, and Cllr Rolington has an app that could support Lorrywatch	-
13.2 It was noted that KCC has cleaned the interceptor; Cllr Russell will follow up with KCC on the potential asset handover and on the repeatedly reported blocked High Street drains.	-
13.3 HIP scheme submission is ready for Tunbridge Wells grant application. The Clerk will ask whether a second scheme may also be submitted, given the cost being under funding availability	-

	Item	Page
13.4	Following correspondence from a local resident it is agreed to explore the option of upgrading the path around the Upper Glebe to improve access	-
13.5	Parishioners continue to report issues on Chequers Road, all fed back to KCC; residents are advised to document any crashes, and the Clerk will work with KCC to add this section to the HIP as the next safety priority	-
13.6	Committee noted the response regarding a possible one way system in Goudhurst	16
14	Planning Decisions	21
15	Chairman's Report	-
16	Clerk's Report	-
17	Correspondence	-
18	Items for information	-
19	Date of next Meeting , 10th March 2026 7.15 for 7.30 start at The Church Rooms.	-

# Goudhurst Parish Council



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 held at the Church Rooms, Back Lane

Open Session was held between 7.15 to 7.30pm. No members of the public in attendance.

### PARTICIPANTS

**Councillors present:** Cllrs Antony Harris, Phil Kirkby (Chairman), David Knight (Borough Councillor), Peter Rolington, Craig Broom, Helen Yeo, Paul Wareham, and Geoff Mason

**Others present:** None

**Officers present:** Panetta Horn Deputy Clerk. K Hoyle Clerk

### APOLOGIES

535/25 Apologies were received from Ed Read Cutting (work commitments), Suzie Kember (work) , Alison Webster (working) and Caroline Richards (poorly)

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

536/25 There were none.

### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

537/25 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, were approved. Note: on the agenda there was typo, cut off section. It should read 9<sup>th</sup> December. The correct minutes were attached and were signed during the meeting

### REPORTS FROM COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

538/25 The Local Plan has now been adopted, which means a Call for Sites will be initiated within the next six months. The 26K Highways Grant from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is now open for applications. Concerns were also raised regarding the on going major incidences with the water outages.

### **Resolutions**

RFO Report

539/25 It was **resolved** to approve the payments for December 2025 as listed below and the recommended vivamente

Ref	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	Gross	Net	Vat	Auth Ref
		<b>Salaries</b>	<b>Jan Salaries</b>	<b>5,886.50</b>	<b>5,886.50</b>		
27317	88587	Veolia	bin emptying burial ground Dec	49.51	41.26	8.25	Contract
27318		F&C	Cleaning services to 12/12	739.20	616.00	123.20	contract
<b>27319</b>		<b>Pearsons</b>		<b>1,026.42</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	5763		December Plain Maint	235.62	196.35	39.27	Clerk
	5771		Stump Removal 50% deposit	574.80	479.00	95.80	Clerk
	5770		Hedge Spraying	216.00	180.00	36.00	Clerk
27320	11557	Board Intelligence	Annual Software BI	240.00	200.00	40.00	Clerk
27321	20549	Community Heartbeat	New Pads for Defib	171.54	136.00	28.59	Clerk
27322		Tate	Deposit 50% for new church gates	2,090.89	1,742.41	348.48	clerk
27323	26236	Capel	Lower Glebe Strimming	96.00	80.00	16	clerk
27324		Goudhurst Village hall	Electric contributions	200.00	200.00	0.00	Reimbursement
27325		Andrea Kirkby	Event Insurance	617.14	617.14	0.00	Council
<b>27326</b>		<b>B&amp;K</b>		<b>692.60</b>			
	22984		Electric fire for office	296.00	246.67	49.33	clerk
	23002		Electric works in office and lights on Plain	396.60	330.50	66.10	clerk
27327		Pelham	40% deposit for gate brace at Victorian Cemetery	196.00	196.00	0.00	Burials
27328	480	Grace Mitchell	50% contribution to new fire door lock	100.42	120.50	20.12	

540/25 It was **resolved** for Cllr Geoff Mason and Cllr Craig Broom to authorise the online payments via Unity Bank

#### RESOLUTIONS

541/25 It was **resolved** to adopt the IT Policy, as required by Assertion 10, with two amendments to a typo (SPC – to GPC) and remove the reference to serial numbers for members personal computers

542/25 It was **resolved** to adopt the GDPR Breach Notification Procedure

543/25 It was **resolved** to re -adopt the Information Data Protection Policy with one amendment regarding diversity monitoring as it is not applicable

544/25 It was **resolved** to adopt the GDPR Document Retention Policy with one amendment to contact details.

545/25 It was **resolved** to re - adopt FOI Publication Scheme

546/26 It was **resolved** to re-adopt the Policy on dealing with the Press and Media

547/26 It was **resolved** for the Staff Working Group, to review the following policies. The Policies include:

- Dignity at Work
- Equality & Diversity
- Grievance Procedures
- Disciplinary Procedures
- Lone & Home Working Policy

**Action:** The Clerk to update the policies into the Council Portal and the working group to review and make recommendations. Working group: Cllr Geoff Mason, Craig Broom and Alison Webster.

548/25 It was agreed to have a training session regarding the IT capabilities in house. Action: Cllr Craig will host the session, and share availability dates

#### GDPR TRAINING

549/25 It was **agreed** for all councillors, and staff to complete the training. Action: Cllr Craig Broom circulate the training, with the aim of finishing the training before the next meeting (February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026)

#### EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKING GROUP

550/25 The meeting was postponed due to councillor availability. It is rescheduled for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Office at 3pm. **Action:** Cllr Craig Broom, Cllr Peter Rolington, Cllr Helen Yeo and Cllr Alison Webster

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

551/25. Cllr Antony Harris updated the council on Local Government Reorganisation, including issues for the KALC response to the LGR proposals. Further detail can be found in the appendices. It is **agreed** for Cllr Phil Kirkby and Cllr Antony Harris to represent the Parish Council at the KALC meeting, highlighting the importance of keeping local councillors; local.

552/25 Cllr Antony Harris updated the Council regarding a local housing needs survey being carried out by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. It is reported the KALC committee have asked for more information and Cllr Kirkby and Cllr Harris will update.

553/25 Council noted the update from the Planning Committee, including the TWBC Planning Committee, call in for application 25/02658/MOD106 and application 25/03036/FULL.

554/25 Council noted the Chairman's Report which included confirmation of the precept has been submitted.

555/25 Kilndown amenities and February maintenance were discussed, with members noting that the Clerk has completed the data audit. A positive meeting had taken place with the Diocese, including plans to purchase the lower section of land, upgrade the path, replace

fencing, and install new play tables. An update was provided on ongoing projects and possible Christmas lights on the Plain were also considered as part of the wider amenities work.

Correspondence

556/25 Council noted the report regarding a tanker blocked Lidwells Lane by getting stuck in the ditch due to the recent road closures and diversions. Clerk confirmed this had been reported to Kent County Council Highways Team to review the route.

Items for information

557/25 There were none

Date of next meeting: *10 February 2026, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start at The Church Rooms*

Meeting 9.06pm

K.Hoyle.

Clerk and Proper Officer

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **KCC Members Report for Parish Council – Cllr Claudine Russell**

**February 2026**

### **Council Overview**

The draft budget has been set and will be voted on at full council this month. The council tax raise is 3.99% although we are still awaiting the S151 officers report in to the budget and this has been late to publish.

KCC have received a “requires improvement” Ofsted report for the care leavers area of Children’s Services, other ratings have dropped from “outstanding” to “good” and the leader is writing to central government to ask for more money to fund Kent’s service. I’m not sure how this will work in the context of a lower council tax being set.

A carpark has been refurbished at Sessions House for use by members of the administration, the cost of this is £600,000.

### **Cranbrook Division**

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR TWBC £25k – KCC are working as fast as possible to get all schemes designed and costed so that the deadline for the TWBC money can be met. In more complex designs Rob Wormington has been advised that these are taking slightly longer to finish.

CRANBROOK – We have the school meeting arranged with KCC officers and the cabinet member for education on 4<sup>th</sup> February. I am able to attend the meeting regarding pavement parking on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. I have raised an ICasework regarding the broken road and distorted footpath near to Wisely Pound.

GOUDHURST – I have been chasing a response to my query regarding the drains. I contacted the highways engineer to have a look at the diversion/roadworks signage along the

HAWKHURST – I await confirmation of the salt bin purchase and will then arrange the salt delivery. I am still awaiting the outcome of the Ombudsman review into the 4<sup>th</sup> pedestrian crossing.

BENENDEN – I have arranged for some trees bordering the highway to be removed that were affecting a resident’s property and their BT lines, they were assessed and they were KCC trees and had ash die back and were in poor condition, they will shortly be removed.

FRITTENDEN – There is a meeting scheduled regarding the build outs on the 10<sup>th</sup> February with highways officers, parish and borough councillors and the cabinet member for highways. I am also meeting the Frittenden school headteacher and having a tour this month.

### **Members Grant**

I have had a number of people contact me about my members grant since the reminder, thank you. I do still have some money left for community or towards village highway projects, they have to be new projects not repairs and maintenance but if you can think of anything please let me know and I will put you in touch with my members grant officer.

Please email me for help on any issues: [Claudine.Russell@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Claudine.Russell@kent.gov.uk)

# Goudhurst Parish Council

## RFO report to Council

Accounts to 31/01/2026

These figures will be presented to Council at the February 2026 Council meeting.

### Receipts UTB in January 2026

Burial Charges	1234
	<hr/>
Garage Rent	848
	<hr/>
	<b>2,082</b>

### Receipts Instant Access in January 2026

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### Receipts CCLA in January 2026

Dividend payment	613
	<hr/>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>2,695</b>

### Payments January 2026

UTB	15,934
	<hr/>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>15,934</b>

### Cash Balances at Bank as at 31<sup>st</sup> December

UTB	27,636
CCLA	184,888
	<hr/>
Instant Access	32,413
	<hr/>
<b>Current Balances</b>	<b>244,940</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Accounts Payable to 05.02.2026 for authorisation**

27347	Veolia	bin emptying burial ground Jan	53.96	44.96
37348	F&C	Cleaning services to 12/1	745.80	124.30
27349	Mazars	External Auditor fees	1,056.00	880.00
24350	SSL	Parish Council Websites Domain renewal	59.99	49.99
27351	Greenaway	Repairs BH Toilets	76.00	76.00
27352	GVH	Hop pickers meeting 27.1.26	15.00	15.00
27353	Envirocure	December L8 check at CF	33.00	27.50
27354	Goudhurst Village hall		15.00	15.00
27355	KO Print	Folders for Burials Forms	415.80	344.00
<b>27356</b>	<b>Microshade / Flotek</b>		<b>983.58</b>	
		New Laptop for Burials	648.96	540.80
		Jan microshade account	334.62	278.85
27357	ICCM	Cemeteries Training Course	210.00	175.00
<b>27358</b>	<b>Pearsons</b>		<b>2,763.34</b>	
		Dec Plain Maint	235.62	196.35
		Jan St Marys Maint	1,280.00	1,066.67
27359	Grace Mitchell	underpayment on door lock	20.12	20.12
27360	B&K	Power for pond pump in Kilndown	183.60	153.00
27361	HFF	Siltex on Pond	1,044.00	870.00
	Abigail Horn	25 hours Burial Digitisation	375.00	375.00

## Cost Centre budgets which have exceeded

There are minor changes since last month, no new accounts have been exceeded.

		Budget	YTD Balance	Reasoning
5106	Office Cleaning and Maint	1500	2337	Remedial electrical work of £1235 and redecoration of £385 were unbudgeted but necessary expenditure
5109	The Plain Utilities	1040	2662	£1600 additional electricity for pond pump following upgrade.
5111	Office utilities	2700	4796	Late receipt of Electricity Bill resulted in incurring charges for period Sept 24 to Mar 25 in this years costs. Additional large bill taken on direct debit for £1796 due to mix up with estimated meter reading. Refund expected.
5161	Minor Expenses	500	685	£50 non slip chair mats to counteract slopping floor. £164 staff name badges. £60 on new keys following replacement lock, plus spares. £52 summer and winter planting of window boxes.£107 Installation of signage in village. £165 window display boards in office.
5170	Office Loan Repayment	8593	9763	Estimated repayment cost was set too low.
5180	Maps. Leaflets and Publicity	100	165	Flyers for Lurkins Rise survey
5201	Training	1500	1604	CiCLA training for all staff approved which was unbudgeted.
5300	Plain	1000	2364	Electrical works and meters £587 and siltex £870
5350	GF grounds Maint	9645	15559	Additional work required to meet with the sports grant criteria
5351	CF Pavilion Maint	2000	2667	£419 spent on replacement hand drier unbudgeted £134 spent on unblocking toilet unbudgeted £318 spent on electrical work - unbudgeted
5360	KD Quarry Pond Maint	0	2667	Floating lake skimmer unbudgeted.
5388	CCTV Maint	600	1005	£467 spent on cable work at GVH, work planned for 26/27 but brought forward whilst scaffolding was in place
5394	Parish Bins	0	643	Project planned for 2026/7 with £1600 budget, purchased early.
5915	Christmas Tree and lights	500	537	Purchase of new lights for Church £37

The bank reconciliations will be brought to the meeting for signature.

**Panetta Horn**

RFO 's Report February 2026

**Deputy Clerk and RFO**  
**5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

# Goudhurst Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting Dates 2026-27 (subject to change)

Meetings take place in the Church Rooms unless specified otherwise stated.

Agendas can be found at <https://goudhurst-pc.gov.uk>.



Month	Council Meeting	Planning Committee	Amenities Committee	'Highways' Committee	Projects Committee	Finance Committee	Burial Authority
<b>April</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>  7.30pm	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm			
<b>May</b>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> 7pm  APM 21 <sup>st</sup> 6.30pm for 7pm start  Village Club	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm			Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  Fountain House	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  Fountain House	
<b>June</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm		Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm  (7.00pm for PP)		Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  Fountain House	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Fountain House
<b>July</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> 6.30pm					
<b>August</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>  7.30pm		Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm		
<b>September</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm		Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm (7.00pm for PP)		Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  Fountain House	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Fountain House

Month	Council Meeting	Planning Committee	Amenities Committee	'Highways' Committee	Projects Committee	Finance Committee	Burial Authority
<b>October</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm				
<b>November</b>	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm		Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm  Fountain House	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  Fountain House	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> 1.00pm  <b>Council Office</b>
<b>December</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm					
<b>January 2026</b>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm		Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.00pm for PP)	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Fountain House		
<b>February</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm				
<b>March</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (7.15 pm for PP)	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm				Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> 1.00pm  <b>Council Office</b>

**PP = Public Participation**

**Version Updated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Dear Kat,

I hope you are well and enjoyed the Christmas break. I am just emailing as we have now had the opportunity to complete our review of the proposals to introduce a one-way system along the A262 Church Road.

As you know, multiple teams at Kent County Council (KCC) have been investigating various measures to mitigate the impact of large vehicles getting stuck on the bend outside St Mary the Virgin Church on the A262 Church Road for some time now and, as part of this, we undertook an investigation into whether or not a one-way scheme through Goudhurst would be deliverable with a view to then submitting a bid for Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding to build the scheme.

However, I am afraid that, following a detailed feasibility assessment of the proposals, we do not believe that we can deliver a one-way scheme through the centre of Goudhurst. I appreciate that this will be frustrating, especially as it was felt that this was the last remaining option for this location that could be investigated. As such, I have summarised below (not in any particular order) the considerations made as part of the assessment and the issues that would preclude us from implementing this change so that the Parish Council can understand our reasons and concerns and, I hope, be assured that it is not a decision that has been reached lightly, but instead has been based on a number of different factors that would make a one-way system here difficult for us to deliver in regard to both buildability and costs. Even with a successful LTP bid it is likely that the necessary works would be over and above the funding that we could be granted through this process.

1. Currently traffic is using Church Road which is an A road (A262) and links the A28 near St Michael's with the A21 Lamberhurst bypass. The suggested diversion would put vehicles onto roads (the B2079 North Road and Chequers Road) that are of a lower classification. As such these roads are not the preferred route for through traffic. In addition, these two roads do not have the same level of carriageway construction as an A road as they are not expected to carry the same volume of traffic as an A road would be. The A262 is of carriageway type 2 construction whereas North Road and Chequers Road are both type 3 construction. Putting extra traffic through these two roads could mean failure of the carriageway and would likely add an increased maintenance burden on KCC. We would also not advocate diverting traffic onto less strategically significant

routes and to do so could set a dangerous precedent. In addition, the diverted A-road traffic wishing to turn right would have to give priority to on-coming B-road traffic at the junction with Chequers Road. Traffic wishing to exit Lidwells Lane would have to do so under much heavier traffic flows.

2. The designs produced and vehicle tracking carried out previously to show what work would be required in order to make a one-way system here feasible indicated that some road widening would be required at the junction of North Road and Chequers Road. However, we do not believe that KCC, as highway authority, has all of the land required within the publicly maintainable highway and we would be required to remove a section of verge outside 'Gullivers' which would place traffic closer to the property boundary and potentially result in damage to the property owner's wall if HGVs cannot navigate the junction smoothly. The tracking carried out indicates that large vehicles would be very close to the wall to make the turn. In addition, to facilitate the potential road widening on North Road (approach to Chequers Road), the visibility splay for Lidwells Lane would be reduced and there would also most likely be a loss of trees here.

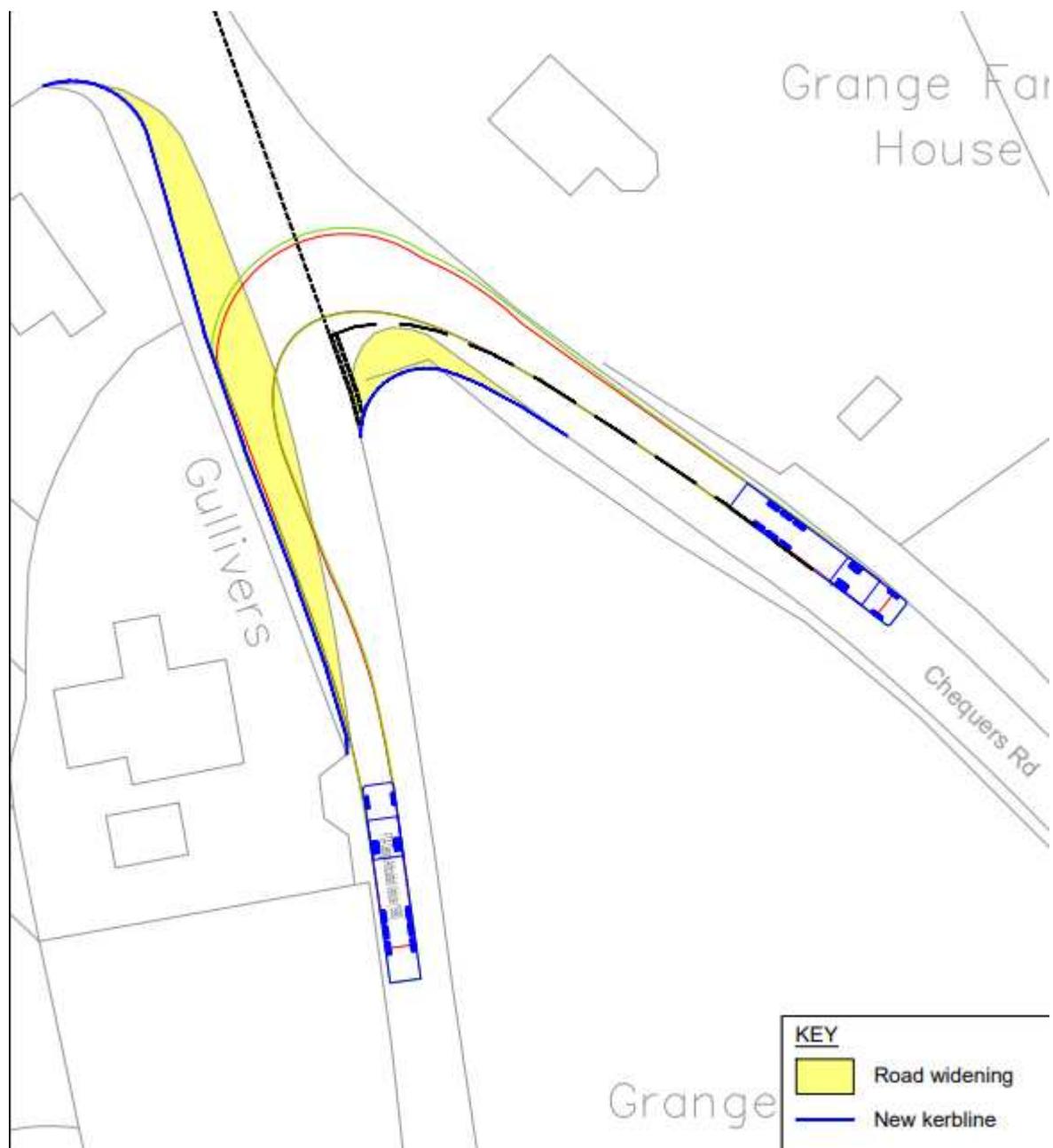


Figure 1: Proposed widening

3. There is currently a bus route on Church Road which would need to be diverted. Buses would likely have to complete a loop to serve the centre of Goudhurst adding additional time to the journey. We also have similar concerns with regard to bus movements in and out of the Chequers Road/North Road junction as with HGVs.
4. There are a number of unsuitable lanes joining the preferred diversion route and with no physical measures provided it is possible that vehicles may use these to reduce the length of the diversion. Many of these roads are narrow and not

suitable for larger vehicles, specifically Lovers Lane and Tattlebury Lane. This increase in traffic is also likely to be very unpopular with residents, especially along North Road and Chequers Road, who would be negatively impacted by the increased traffic volumes. Residents living within the proposed one-way system are also likely to object based on an increase to their journey times when travelling east.

5. By pushing additional traffic through a number of junctions we increase the potential for collisions at these locations. For example, the tracking/swept path analysis for Chequers Road onto Cranbrook Road suggests that large vehicles would have to straddle the centreline at the give way on Chequers Road as it makes the right turn, which could lead to head-on collisions.

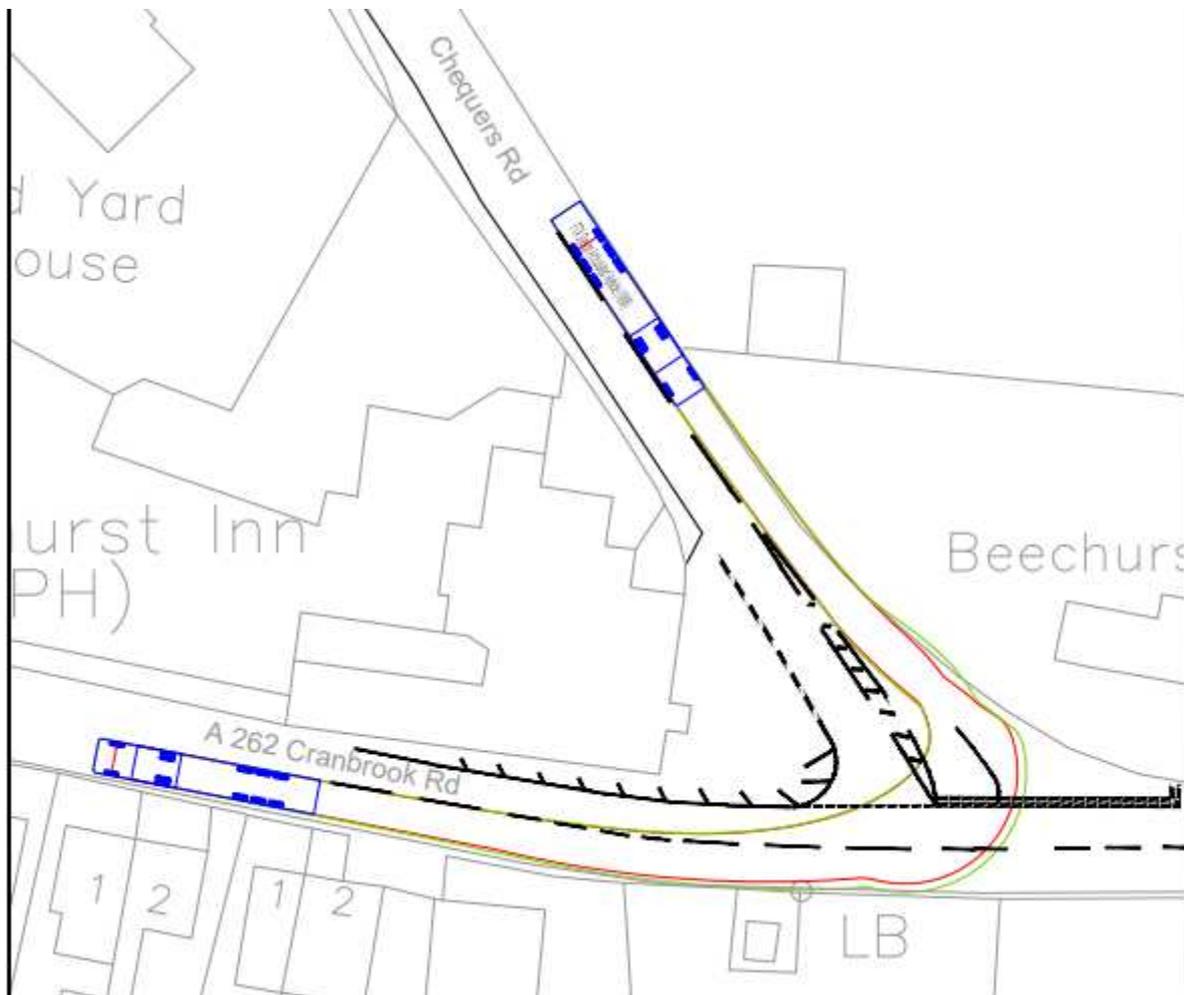


Figure 2: Turning movements at Chequers Road

6. There is the potential for increased traffic speeds on Cranbrook Road and Church Road as drivers will not need to slow for oncoming vehicles.

7. The existing two-way section within the village would need to be significantly reconfigured to allow for the potential one-way system, otherwise concern arise over increased speeds and dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.
8. Businesses located within the village centre could have strong objections due to the significant loss of passing trade if one direction is diverted away from the centre.
9. The A262/B2079 Village crossroads would require significant reconfiguration to enforce the no proposed no-entry requirement. There are a couple of private driveways in the vicinity of where the no entry would need to start and access to these would of course have to be maintained. Likewise, the right turn onto Balcombes Hill must also still be facilitated. If drivers are unsure of the no-entry requirement, they could overshoot the junction with North Road and then have to reverse. Similarly, if anyone has driven past the junction with Chequers Road thinking that they could still access Goudhurst village centre by turning left at the main crossroads, this could lead to unsafe U-turn manoeuvres when they realise it's a no entry.
10. Traffic using the main crossroads could find it harder to enter the main road if there is a more constant flow of vehicles due to the one-way system.

I do hope that's clear but let me know if you have any questions. It is also probably just worth adding that we are aware that some drivers may already be choosing to use North Road/Chequers Road as an alternative to avoid Church Road, but this is different to formally making it the official route onto lower classification roads. It would also not be possible to trial a one-way scheme here due to the previous swept path analysis carried out which suggests, as explained above, that a fair degree of highway engineering work would be required. With such a requirement it would not be possible to deliver a scheme on a trial basis as permanent and costly junction alterations would still need to be made.

We will however be looking at a scheme to rationalise the existing signage in advance of the bend on Church Road, including provision of 'Road narrows – oncoming vehicles in middle of road' signage, and we will keep you updated as this work progresses.

## Planning Decisions for January 2026

Application	Address	Proposal	GPC	TWBC	Decision
25/02422/FULL	Torvalla North Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent TN17 1AS	Variation of Conditions 2, 8 & 13 of Planning Permission 25/00512/FULL - (reorientation & reduction of surface area of swimming pool; landscaping alterations; updated site levels & biodiversity plan)		Approved	16/01/2026
25/02723/FULL	Jetwells Cranbrook Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent TN17 1DY	External alterations, new loggia, demolition of existing conservatory & replacement with new single storey rear extension & new pool building.		Approved	09/01/2025
25/02724/LBC	Jetwells Cranbrook Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent TN17 1DY	Listed Building Consent - Internal & external repairs & alterations, new loggia, demolition of existing conservatory & replacement with new single storey rear extension		Approved	06/01/2025
25/02805/FULL	Ladham Oasthouse , Ladham Road, Goudhurst,	Demolition of garage; replacement building incorporating open bay & annexe; extension of existing drive/parking area.		Approved	16/01/2026
25/02789/FULL	Taywell Farm Shop Cranbrook Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent	Change of use of combined shooting lodge & farm shop (permitted under 19/00441/FULL), to use as a farm shop (Use Class E (a)); front extension (Retrospective)		Approved	20/01/2026
0005/2025/TPO	Land At Shearnfold Wood, Church Road, Kilndown, Cranbrook Kent	Tree preservation order.		Approved	04/02/2026