

Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL OPEN MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

By Zoom Conference call on Monday 09 November 2020 at 7.45 pm

Participants: Councillors Antony Harris (Chairman), David Boniface, Craig Broom, Alan Foster, Philip Kirkby, David Knight, Barry Noakes, Caroline Richards, Jayne Russell, Guy Sutton and Peter Wood. County Councillor Seán Holden until 8.00pm.
Claire Reed, Clerk. Three members of the public.

STATUS OF THE MEETING

273/20 Following Minute 001/20, on 04 April 2020 HM Government brought The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 into force to allow local authorities to conduct meetings remotely. This meeting was held under those Regulations.

APOLOGIES FOR NON PARTICIPATION IN THIS MEETING

274/20 Cllr Chris Ditton was unable to join the meeting due to connection problems.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

275/20 There were none.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

276/20 There were none.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

277/20 County Cllr Seán Holden briefed Council. On Monday 16 November the official launch of Kent's 'Plan Bee' will take place online between 10.30 – 12.30pm. Invitations for Council have been sent to Clerk.

278/20 Kent County Council continues to oppose the changes to Planning legislation.

279/20 Borough Councillors Barry Noakes briefed Council. TWBC are not holding many meetings at present due to COVID-19 restrictions; the Cabinet, Planning Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee and licencing committee continue to meet.

CLERKS' REPORT

280/20 *COVID-19*. It was **noted** that due to current restrictions, the Office is closed to the public and the Clerk is working more hours from home. Deputy Clerk is currently homeworking. Council meetings will continue via Zoom

281/20 *Training*. It was **noted** that the Clerk had received training from Breakdown Communications on building an email database and on creating an e-newsletter. Clerk will also attend the SLCC Virtual Practitioners Conference in February.

282/20 *Board Intelligence Training*. On Thursday 12 November, BI will host a training session for Councillors on annotations.

- 283/20 *Renewal of contract with Board Intelligence.* It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £2400 per annum to renew the contract with Board Intelligence. The contract is for a three-year term.
- 284/20 *KALC AGM 28 November 2020.* It was **noted** that Council had received notice of the upcoming KALC AGM and that Council may send two representatives.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE with POLICE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH and FOOTPATHS

Council received an update from Cllr Alan Foster, Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee.

- 285/20 *Avenue of Trees for the Village Green.* It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £1,064 to plant an avenue of Jacquemontii trees on the Village Green along the south side of the path from east to west. The trees will be part-funded by a grant from County Councillor Sean Holden. Minute 345/19 refers. **Action: Clerks**
- 286/20 *The closure of Park Lane access to Bedgebury Forest.* It was **noted** that there will be a Zoom meeting to discuss the current position and proposals. It was **agreed** that Cllrs Chris Ditton, Caroline Richards and David Knight would attend the meeting. **Action: Clerk to send zoom link.**

BURIAL BOARD

Chairman of the Burial Board, Cllr Caroline Richards, reported:

- 287/20 *Trees in the Church Yard.* It was **noted** that two replacement cherries for the south side of St Mary's will be ordered, under delegated expenditure, at a cost of £135. It was agreed that they should be planted further from the road, if possible. **Action: Clerk**
- 288/20 *Evergreen in the Victorian Churchyard.* It was **noted** that a large evergreen is growing out of a grave near the small old wooden foot gate. It is crowding a yew and a tall Scots Pine. It was **agreed** that the Clerks should obtain a quote from The Living Forest for its removal. **Action: Clerks**

BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Business and Communications Committee, Cllr Craig Broom, reported:

- 289/20 *E-newsletter.* It was **noted** that the Clerk had attended a Zoom training session with Breakthrough Communications on building a central email distribution list via Mailchip and the creation of an e-newsletter. Links to the signup page for the e-newsletter will be added to the Parish Council website and Facebook page and Clerk will email the link to existing Council contacts. **Action: Clerk**
- 290/20 *Destination Goudhurst.* Cllr Craig Broom briefed Council on the complexities of the project and the proposal to divide the project into three separate areas with individual steering groups. These are; *Ongoing improvements, Rhythm & Continuity and Long term improvements.* The proposals and next steps will be discussed in more detail at the forthcoming Business & Communications Committee meeting. **Action: Business & Communications Committee.**
- 291/20 *Update on Broadband in the Parish.* Cllr David Knight reported that there are now two Openreach schemes. The Goudhurst demand led project covers 800 properties in Goudhurst and Curtisden Green and will cost approximately £1 million. The scheme is currently with the DCMS awaiting approval which is expected in the next two weeks. The Kilndown project covers 180 properties (including 54 in Lamberhurst Village) at a cost of £182,000 – vouchers pledged by residents amount to £205,000. To progress the Kilndown project, the order needs to be signed by a legal entity; Clerk has sought advice from KALC and will seek further advice from the SLCC as to whether the Parish Council has the power to sign the order on behalf of residents. It was **agreed** that Cllr David Knight will speak to Councils who have signed agreements with Openreach to see which powers were used and that Cllr Antony Harris will contact William Benson to see if TWBC could sign the order. **Action: Clerk, Cllrs Antony Harris and David Knight.**

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Highways Committee, Cllr David Boniface, reported:

- 292/20 *Update on A21 traffic.* It was **noted** that there has been an increase in delivery vans and vehicles turning into and emerging from driveways on the A21; although potentially slowing the traffic this also increases the risk of collisions. Ted Bennet (Highways Committee Advisor and resident on the A21) will continue to monitor the frequency of collisions and ‘keep in touch’ with Highways England and Greg Clark MP.
- 293/20 *Lorry Watch* – It was **noted** that an update to the Country Eye app allows residents to submit photos of large HGVs blocking the High Street, owners of the HGVs will then be contacted by Country Eye volunteers to advise them of the unsuitability of the route for HGVs. It was **agreed** that a request for volunteers to monitor HGVs and to take photos should be promoted via the Parish Council Facebook page. **Action: Clerk**
- 294/20 *Speed Watch* - Cllr David Boniface reported that the police will soon be launching a new Speed watch initiative using a mobile phone based system and that Goudhurst has been selected as a possible site. It was proposed that volunteers would take up positions on various roads where speeding was recognised as a problem and the new speed devices would automatically send data collected to the police. The police would then write to the owner of the vehicle.
- 295/20 *Cranbrook Road Crossing* – It was **noted** that Goudhurst Traffic Action Group have started a petition to Greg Clark MP asking for a lower speed limit and crossing for improved safety and access to Goudhurst Primary School. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would support this petition. It was **noted** that previously a KCC engineer has advised that a lack of a standing area on the north side of Cranbrook Road, at the junction with Beresford Road, would make the introduction of a formal crossing with lights (e.g. Pelican crossing or similar) unlikely.
- 296/20 *Proposed walking route along the verge of Station Road* - It was **noted** that the Chairman of the Highways Committee is liaising with David Munn, Public Rights of Way & Access Service at KCC, regarding the viability of a walking route along Station Road.
- 297/20 *Preparation for snow and ice* – It was **noted** that a location for storing the tonne bag of grit and salt had been found along with a possible contractor to spread the salt and grit on roads not covered by KCC Highways Dept. It was **agreed** that Clerk would seek advice from Council’s insurers Zurich. **Action: Clerk**

YOUTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Youth Committee, Cllr Phil Kirkby, reported:

- 298/20 *Sale of Garages at Mary Days.* Cllr David Knight reported that notice had been served to those who rent the garages and that residents are concerned about the impact on parking in the area. It was agreed that a request should be made for an urgent meeting with the CEO of Town & Country Housing Group. **Action: Clerk**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

299/20 Council **noted** the following Representations from GPC and Decisions from TWBC:

Meeting	Application	Address	GPC	TWBC	Decision
23.06.20	20/00716	Butchers Shop, High Street	Approve	Granted	09.10.20
25.08.20	20/01958/LBC	1 Hammonds Farm Cottages, Smiths Lane	Approve	Granted	30.10.20

15.09.20	20/02233	Brandfold Cottage, North Road	Approve - subj. to Highways approval	Withdrawn	13.10.20
15.09.20	20/02222	The Stables, Gore Court, North Rd	Approve	Granted	14.10.20
15.09.20	20/02119, 20/02120/LBC	Lamberts, Church Rd	Approve	Granted	02.10.20
14.10.20	20/02540	Thatchers Hall, Ranters Lane	Approve		
14.10.20	20/02629	Marlingate Granary, Bedgebury Rd	Refuse - Damage integrity of listed building		
14.10.20	20/02635	Barn, Nursery Farm	Refuse - Access opp. Kilndown Rd		
14.10.20	20/02631	Nursery Farm Oast	Approve		
14.10.20	20/02362	Dallimore Avenue/ Churchill Wood	Approve		
27.10.20	20/02850/LBC	Curfew Cottage, Curtisden Green	Approve		
27.10.20	20/02497/LBC	Beresford Lodge,	Approve - subj. to Conservation Officer report		
27.10.20	20/02255	2 Combourne Cottages, Jarvis Lane	Refuse - No justification in AONB		
27.10.20	20/03026	Risebridge Bungalow,	Approve		

ACCOUNTS

The Deputy Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer reported.

300/20 It was **resolved** that these payments be made from the UTB account in November 20:

DD	TWBC	Toilet block NNDR Oct 20	£U485106.00
U470	Grounds Care &General	Grounds maint contract Oct	£1,325.28
U471	Capel Ground Care	Grounds maint contract Oct	£1,367.29
U472	John Fermor Landscapes	Grounds maint contract Oct	£400.00
U473	Tenterden Twilight	Cleaning contract Oct	£645.16
U474	Pearson's Landscapes	The Plain grounds maint Oct	£111.60
U475	Microshade Business Consultant	Citrix Inv 13649	£129.48
U476	Complete Weed Control	Churchyard weed control Sep 20	£612.00
U477	RJ&L Hillier	Hop Bine rent Nov	£400.00
U478	Breakthrough Communications	Compliant Newsletters	£339.60
U479	Bow Design and Print	GTAG stickers and signs	£84.00
U480	SLCC Enterprises	Clerk Practitioners conference Feb 21	£90.00
U481	CL Reed	Expenses Oct	£31.44
U482	Knockout Print Services	Covid-19 signage	£144.00
U483	Breakthrough Communications	Newsletter & mailing list	£474.00
U484	Kilndown Quarry Centre	Annual maintenance grant	£300.00
U485	Envirocure Ltd	Toilet block Legionella remedial work	£163.20
U586	Envirocure Ltd	Chequer Field Pavilion Legionella work	£541.20

U587	GM Monk	Toilet Block emergency lighting check	£210.00
U588	GM Monk	Toilet Block spares re emerg. lighting	£522.00
U589	AVB Farnfield	Salary Nov 20	£1,932.20
U590	CL Reed	Salary Nov 20	£1,641.14
U591	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE NI	£1,253.06
DD	Lloyds Bank	UBS credit card	£232.37
DD	Infinity Technology Solutions	Office phones and broadband Inv 408240	£133.80
DD	Veolia	Burial Grounds bin Nov	£156.44

301/20 *Receipts in November 2020 were noted:*

Burial Board	£1,430.00
CCLA PSDF	£1.55

302/20 *Bank reconciliation.* It was **resolved** to accept the Clerk's explanation of the reconciled accounts to the end of November 2020 with account reconciliation statements and copies of the bank statements and it was **noted** that Council's cash book balance was:

Unity Trust Current a/c	£86,846.65
Nat West Current a/c	£34,501.50
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	<u>£20,569.09</u>
Total	£141,917.24

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

303/20 Monday, 11 January 2021 at 7.30 pm. Members should expect that this will be a Virtual Meeting via Zoom conference call. **Action: The Clerks**

The meeting closed at 21.25 hrs.

Claire Reed, Clerk
Anthony Farnfield, Deputy Clerk

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of Council