

Goudhurst Parish Council



HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 25 February 2020 at the Jessel Room, Goudhurst

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Alan Foster, Antony Harris and David Knight.
Claire Reed (Assistant Clerk)

Apologies were accepted from: Cllrs Guy Sutton and Peter Wood; Ted Bennett (advisor).

Declarations of Interest. None.

Questions from the public and press. There were none.

6. Comments from a resident.

It was **noted** that a resident from Back Lane had contacted the Clerk to ask if vehicles involved in the development of the Old Parsonage Site would be required to follow a set route into the village. It was further noted that details relating to the actual development would be part of the Schedule of Works to be agreed with TWBC. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that the Clerk write to TWBC with residents' concerns and suggested routes. It was **noted** that the Back Lane resident had also asked if a pollution assessment had been carried out in the area surrounding the Old Parsonage site – it has not. It was agreed to further recommend to Council that a pollution assessment be requested of TWBC to give a baseline reading prior to the development of the site. **Action: Clerk and DB to draft letters to TWBC regarding schedule of works for the Old Parsonage site and pollution assessment.**

Cllr Antony Harris briefed the committee on his meeting with Alistair Hulme, the developer's agent for the Old Parsonage site. Mr Hulme had suggested that Cllr Harris write to him setting out proposals for additional car parking on the site. **Action: AH**

7. A21 campaign to lower speed limit/reduce collision frequency

7.1 Update on any response from Highways England.

It was **noted** that there had still been no response from Mr Colin Evans (Highways England) to our letter of 21 October 2019 despite sending a chasing letter on 28 January 2020.

7.2 Escalation to a higher level in Highways England

No decision made at this meeting.

7.3 Draft invitation to MPs to attend meeting at A21 resident's house.

It was **noted** that Ted Bennett is no longer able to host the meeting at his home and that the meeting should now take place in Kilndown Village Hall. Cllr Antony Harris agreed to redraft the invitation. It was further **noted** that the Chief Inspector of Roads Policing, Rhiannan Pepper, had agreed to attend the meeting.

Action: Clerk to send draft to AH; AH to redraft.

7.4 Resident's update on the A21 situation.

It was **noted** that Ted Bennett was not able to attend the meeting but had written that the Tunbridge Wells Environmental Officer had not been very concerned about the way Highways England had dealt with the Japanese Knotweed on the verge.

8. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

8.1 Information from KCC

The information received from KCC, to assist with writing the HIP, was available to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was **noted** that the HIP is a working document developed in collaboration with KCC and will act as a plan of works for Highways issues.

8.2 Preparation for meeting with Christopher Koningen (KCC Schemes Project Manager)

It was **noted** that the meeting with Mr Koningen had been confirmed for Monday 9 March at 10am in The Hop Bine. It was **agreed** that committee members will individually familiarise themselves with the content and rationale of Version 3 of the HIP and make comments using the ‘sticky note’ function on the BI platform. It was further agreed that Cllrs David Boniface and Antony Harris will meet to write bullet points for projects included in the HIP. **Action: DB and AH to write bullet points for HIP.**

8.3 Speed Surveys

The committee reviewed the possible sites suggested for the speed and traffic frequency surveys on the A262 at Iden Green and A262 at the Green Cross Inn. It was **noted** that the identification of suitable locations for the strips on the road will be carried out by Christopher Koningen from KCC. It was **agreed** that the strips on the B2984 Chequers Road would be in the 30 mph residential area as that would be recognised as helpful by residents. [Note: the Chequers Rd speed survey is not for KCC – it is purely for the benefit of GPC]

9. A262 traffic issues:

9.1 Update on Setting up KCC Lorry Watch scheme (GTAG)

It was **noted** that Peter Rollington and GTAG are holding a demonstration of a version of the Country Eye app which allows members of the public to photograph HGVs using inappropriate routes. The demonstration will take place in the Church Rooms at 7.30pm on 9 March 2020.

9.2 7.5T HGV Trial Area – new map from KALC

It was **noted** that the better definition map of the trial area for the 7.5T restriction in the Marden and Maidstone area has still not been received. **Action: Clerks to chase KALC and contact Marden Parish Council.**

9.3 Request for KCC approval of raised pedestrian platform crossing near antique shop.

It was **noted** that this will not be a speed hump but rather an extension across the High St of the raised shared footways. It is featured on the HIP and will be discussed with Christopher Koningen at the forthcoming meeting.

10. Other Road Issues

10.1 Winter preparations

It was **noted** that, to date, a volunteer with a suitable tractor able to push a snow plough to clear C roads around the Parish had not been found. It was further **noted** that there was not currently anywhere in the Parish for the 1 tonne bags of grit to be stored so Council will not be taking delivery this year.

10.2 ‘Pedestrians in Road’ warning sign for Goudhurst Tennis Club

It was **noted** that this is included on the Parish HIP.

10.3 Resident reports on frequent crashes junction Chequers Rd / N. Rd

It was **noted** that there has been a number of collisions at the junction and this needs to be addressed via the HIP.

11. Hop Pickers Line Heritage Group (HLHG)

11.1 Revised wording on info panel, Finchcock’s Drive

It was **noted** that the new sign was in place. Also reported that an information panel will be installed near the edge of the Horsmonden village green.

11.2 Next meeting – Tuesday 24 March, 13:30 St Mary’s Children’s Chapel

Date of next Highways Meeting: Tuesday 21 April 2020, 7.30pm in the Jessel Room.

Minute	Date	Item	Action	Who	Deadline	Date Completed
	10.12.19	A21 Speed Limit Reduction	Send chasing letter to Clive Evans expressing disappointment that we had not had a response to our critique of his (Highways England's) rejection letter despite the number of weeks (7+) that had passed.	Clerk	Done	
			Draft materials inviting MP's to a meeting and seek improvements/comments from other members of the Highways Committee and this will be expedited soon after the election results were known.	Clerk and DB	Done	
			Escalating our A21 speed limit application to higher level in Highways England	Clerk and DB		
	10.12.19	Lorry Watch	Pay cost of printing stickers for residents' waste bins on submission of invoice.	Clerk		
	10.12.19	Speed surveys	Agreed to carry out surveys at three sites at cost of £345 + 2x£65 = £475 + VAT	Clerk	Ongoing	
	10.12.19	Parish HIP	To send off latest version (version 3)	Clerk	Done	Feb-20
	10.12.19	Village designation of Iden Green	To organise details from Cllr Peter Wood's research into an application for lower speed limit based on village designation of Iden Green area.	PW and DB		
	10.12.19	Winter Preparations	To recruit a farmer to contract to GPC to clear important minor roads – Will Thompson suggested.	Clerk		
-	10.12.19	Destroyed timber bollard on High Street	Request KCC to replace – suggest replacing with heavy duty black plastic bollard to match others on High St.	Clerk	Done	Feb-20
6	25.02.20	Old Parsonage Site	Draft letter to TWBC regarding schedule of works and pollution survey	Clerk & DB		
			Write to Alistair Hulme (agent at Old Parsonage) to set out proposals for parking.	AH		

7.3	25.02.20	A21 Speed Limit Reduction	Redraft letter to MPS re A21 meeting.	AH		
8.2	25.02.20	Meeting with KCC Highways	Write summary of HIP for meeting with Christopher Koningen	DB & AH		
9.2	25.02.20	HGV trial area	Chase KALC for map of trial area/ contact Marden PC	Clerks		