****Goudhurst Parish Council****

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 26 April 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Antony Harris, David Knight and Guy Sutton.

Also Mr Paul Green (Market Place resident), Mr Ted Bennett (A21 resident) as advisors. Mrs Sarah Power of Church House Cottage.

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Foster (Holiday) and Mrs Helen Sampson (GTAG).

Cllr Mrs Alison Webster was absent.

# Declarations of Interest: There were none.

# Questions from the public and press:

1. London have the legal right to control HGV movements. Kent now has new powers; will these be used to control the HGVs moving through the village?

# Minutes

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 01 March 2022, were an accurate record.

# Lorry Watch & Speed Watch in Goudhurst Parish.

This will be restarting in the coming weeks.

# A21 Safety Improvement.

A detailed report, produced by Jacobs Engineering on behalf of National Highways (NH), has been received describing hazards and recommendations for safety improvements on the A21. It includes a speed survey from 2019 showing the mean speed is approximately 40mph. It was noted that the proposals are based on official crash data which details only a fraction of the actual collisions recorded by residents.

Ted Bennet briefed the Committee on the meeting with NH officers in Kilndown on 21 March 2022. It was felt that the officers listened to the experiences of residents but that the suggestions from the residents were being blocked. Residents continue to call for a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph.

It was **agreed** that Council would write to National Highways copied to the Transport Secretary Grant Shapps MP, Cllr Seán Holden and write to Greg Clark MP requesting that he speaks to the relevant minister and relevant parities in support of the Council’s requests.

The agreed requests are:

1. Double white lines are established along the whole stretch from the Kilndown Road to Rosemary Lane junctions; except for those stretches where NH consider that overtaking can be safely conducted.
2. An average speed camera system is installed.
3. If a 40mph speed limit is not approved at this time, 40mph advisory signs are installed wherever appropriate;
4. That National Highways establish how they propose to prevent collisions at the two junctions with the A21, that is with Rosemary Lane and with Kilndown Road. This seems to be a serious omission in the proposals. Collisions at these locations account for ½ of all recorded collisions on this stretch of the A21.

**Action: Clerk**

# Closure of the A262, April 2022.

The closure on Cranbrook Road for 5 days in March caused much disruption in Goudhurst village. Traffic management was minimal and insufficient signage resulted in large HGVs attempting to turn round in narrow side streets. The situation was exasperated by the closure of junctions 8-11 of the M20 with vehicles looking for alternative routes. A letter to Kent Highways has been drafted. The committee agreed that the system of having separate contractors for traffic management doesn’t work. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

# Goudhurst EV Charge Points

It was noted that a number of quotations have been received with two still outstanding. The committee asked the Clerk to create a table of proposals detailing costs, service charges, the need for membership etc. so that a recommendation to Council can be made. **Action: Clerk**

# Parish Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) Priorities

The Chairman suggested priorities based on the previous HIP, results from recent ATS speed surveys and requests from residents. No decision was made.

# Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 28 June 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Claire Reed

Clerk