

# Goudhurst Parish Council



## HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Minutes of a Meeting held on 28 June 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Antony Harris, David Knight, Alan Foster, Alison Webster and Craig Broom.

**Also:** Ted Bennett, Helen Sampson, Jeff Rimmer and Oliver Tinkler.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Guy Sutton (holiday).
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on 28 June 2022, and previously distributed to members via Board Intelligence, be accepted as a correct record.
4. Questions from the public and press: There were none.

### 5. Past Matters for Information

#### 5.1 Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) on Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.

Helen Sampson reported that GTAG had proposed to invite MP Greg Clarke and Michael Payne to Goudhurst to see the traffic situation however it was noted that it may damage the campaign if traffic levels were low when they visited.

Progress has been made on drafting the A2 size “No Lorry” posters. The draft wording and design will be sent to Goudhurst Parish Council for approval before council agrees to pay for the printing.

A large number of photographs of HGVs travelling through Goudhurst village has been collated. It is planned to create a video clip to support the application to reroute HGVs away from the village. It was **noted** that photos taken with the Country Eye App did not have sufficient definition for the reading of number plates. The issue has been reported to Peter Rollington although there does not seem to be an obvious solution at the moment. **Action: Helen Sampson and Cllr Alison Webster to work on the creation of the HGV video.**

It was **agreed** that GTAG and the Stonecrouch A21 Safety Group would have a stall at the Goudhurst fete on 24 September. **Action: Cllr Alan Foster to book a table.**

#### 5.2 Campaign for A21 Safety improvements

Mr Ted Bennett reported that National Highways engineers have visited his home to assess the situation and have installed cameras to film the junction with Rosemary Lane. Ted noted that there have now been 70 collisions on this section of road in the last four years.

An increase in the number of collisions with deer was noted. It was **resolved** that GPC would write to National Highways requesting the installation of deer warning signs. **Action: Clerk**

The committee agreed that it supported Stonecrouch Safety Group’s request for a 40mph speed limit on the stretch of the A21 between Scotney roundabout and the Flimwell crossroads. However, it was noted that National Highways had previously proposed a 50mph limit with average speed

cameras. Mr Bennet and members were concerned that National Highways were no longer proposing speed cameras for this stretch. It was **resolved** to write to National Highways to ask under what conditions average speed cameras will be installed. It was **resolved** that if National Highways are no longer proposing to install average speed cameras, GPC will campaign for a 40mph limit.

**Action: Clerk**

### *5.3 GPC's complaint regarding the Closure of the A262 in April 2022.*

It was **noted** that County Cllr Sean Holden had written a strong letter to Simon Jones, Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport at KCC. In his letter he stated that Goudhurst's experience was not unique and that more closures are happening often with diversions that are overly long, inappropriate or both. It should be obvious that the narrow country lanes around Goudhurst cannot cope with the entire traffic load of the A262, including large HGVs. Cllr Holden planned to ask a question at the next KCC Full Council meeting regarding the apparent increase of closures as he considers they are not always necessary. Permits should not be handed out without assurance regarding the conditions that will apply.

### *5.4 Update on replacement of EV charge points*

It was **noted** that a survey of the existing infrastructure had been carried out by Pod Point. The surveyor indicated that the posts holding the current sockets could be re-used. Clerk is awaiting a quote for the works. Cllr Knight proposed that if Pod Point is the selected contractor, GPC should ask for the £250 survey fee to be subtracted from the final price. Post meeting note: Pod Point have quoted for the works but have now stated that the existing posts cannot be reused as they are not permanent infrastructure.

## **6. Application to KCC to reroute HGVs away from Goudhurst village**

Cllr Alison Webster offered to arrange upload of photos to a dedicated Facebook page and the creation of a video illustrating the traffic/pedestrian situation in support of the new application.

**Action: Cllr Alison Webster.**

There was a discussion about the benefits and dis-benefits of involving Sissinghurst and Biddenden Parish Councils in the application. The section of the A262 passing through Sissinghurst and Biddenden is shown to be of a lorry-bearing standard on the KCC freight map. By contrast, the Goudhurst section of the A262, is not designated as a lorry route. It was agreed that some contact with Sissinghurst and Biddenden could be helpful; they would be asked to write a letter of support for the application. **Action:**

The potential role of KCC Cllr Sean Holden in the application was discussed. It was noted that Cllr Holden had for many years publicised the need to "Get HGVs out of Kent resident's lives" but it was not clear to what extent he would be willing to support the application. Sean's main focus is on Sissinghurst for which he is a borough Cllr.

It was **noted** that for many years Cllr Holden had pressed for the powers to control moving traffic that exist in London to be granted also to KCC; this power has now been granted. The power is currently being applied in only a small way for example some 'no left/ right turns' in Maidstone are being consulted on with a view to ANPR implementation. ANPR, would be essential for reinforcing route restrictions that would protect Goudhurst. It was agreed that the use of these new powers and enforcement need to be a priority for GPC.

It was agreed that some updating and revision of the existing application document was needed. The Chairman agreed to undertake this with input from other members. **Action: Cllr Boniface.**

The possible role of a Risk Assessment was explained by Jeff Rimmer (GTAG). The use of a Risk Assessment is not straightforward. The kind of risks experienced, such as pedestrians having to jump

out of the way to avoid vehicles which are mounting the pavement causing stress and anxiety, rarely result in an injury. Therefore, it was agreed that it is difficult to get the data together to support the various categories of risk. Jeff Rimmer has discussed how this could work with Kent Highways and will have more information in the coming weeks. **Action: Jeff Rimmer**

#### 7. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

It was **resolved** to focus on the following projects in order of priority;

1. A262 Iden Green, east of Goudhurst Village - Speed reduction to 50mph
2. A262 Cranbrook Road, adjacent to the junction with Beaman Close - Permanent or part-time 20mph speed limit, pedestrian crossing or other traffic calming measures.
3. A262 Goudhurst High Street – improve pedestrian safety by reducing parking on the shared areas, addition of warning signs and/ or introduce a crossing point.
4. A262 Station Road, Spelmonden to Blue Coat Lane – speed limit reduction to 30mph.

#### 8. Co-opting members to the committee

It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that Mr Oliver Tinkler be co-opted to the Highways Committee. It was agreed that Mr Tinkler would work alongside the chairman on the project to re-route large HGV lorries away from Goudhurst village. **Action: Cllr David Boniface to send past papers to Mr Tinkler.**

Cllr Alison Webster agreed to focus on the Cranbrook Road traffic calming/crossing project, in association with Helen Sampson (GTAG). The Chairman will forward all background information and documentation. **Action: Cllr David Boniface**

9. Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 25 October 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.