

Goudhurst Parish Council



Highways Committee 13.12.22

MEETING
13 December 2022 19:30

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7 December 2022

Goudhurst Parish Council



To: Cllrs David Boniface (Chairman), Craig Broom, Antony Harris, Guy Sutton, Oliver Tinkler and Mrs Alison Webster. Cllr Phil Kirkby (ex-officio)

I summon you to a Meeting of the Highways & Public Transport Committee on Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 7.30 pm, in Goudhurst Village Hall, where business detailed on this agenda will be discussed.

Goudhurst Parish Council recognise that there are continuing risks associated with COVID-19 and are supportive of individuals wearing masks in meetings and maintaining a social distance. We will continue to provide hand sanitiser at the entrance to the Village Hall. In order to keep everyone safe, please do not attend a meeting if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 5 days. We will continue to review the risks and will comply with any future controls recommended or mandated by HM Government.

Members of the Public and the Press are welcome to attend this meeting. At the Chairman's discretion, 15 minutes will be set aside for questions from members of the public each one of whom may be invited to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes in total relating to items on the Agenda or about issues of local concern. Thereafter they have the right, and are welcome, to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1.

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

Claire Reed
Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council
07 December 2022

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A quorum for Highways Committee is 3 Members.

Agenda

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Owner</i>
Goudhurst Village Hall	13/12/22	

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To resolve to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2022
4. Questions from the Press and the Public
5. To receive an update from GTAG on lorry watch and speed watch and to decide on any action needed.
6. To receive an update on the campaign for A21 safety improvements and to decide on any action needed.
7. To receive an update on the HIP meeting with Kent Highways on 07 December 2022.
8. To consider the quotations received for replacement EV chargers and to resolve to appoint a contractor.
9. To receive an update on the application to KCC to reroute HGVs away from Goudhurst village and to decide on next steps.
10. To receive an update on the response from KCC regarding traffic management for the closure of the A262 April 2022.
11. Latest traffic issues raised by residents.
12. Next Highways Committee Meeting, 28 February 2022, 7.30pm venue TBC.

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), Craig Broom, Antony Harris, David Knight and Guy Sutton.
Also: Ted Bennett and Heather Bennett (Stonecrouch A21 Action Group) and Jeff Rimmer (GTAG).

1. **Apologies** were accepted from Cllr Alison Webster (ill) and Oliver Tinkler (working).
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 23 August 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. **Goudhurst Traffic Action Group (GTAG) on Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.**
Jeff Rimmer presented a summary of GTAG's recent activities. At the Village Fair, GTAG collected over 200 signatures a further 100 online for their petition to downgrade the A262 to a B road as a way to reduce the number of large HGVs passing through Goudhurst High Street. The newly created YouTube clip showing the problem has been shared with Paul Leary at Kent County Council (KCC) and Freight Officer Annette Fletcher who have also been asked to suggest ideas on finding alternative routes for HGVs. The issue needs to be included on the HIP for further progress to be made.

Speedwatch. Is continuing with approximately 400 cars passing on one side of the carriageway in an hour. The scheme is slowing the traffic and additional signs have now been placed around the village.

Lorry Watch. GTAG are continuing with Lorry Watch and are now tweeting freight companies directly with photographic evidence as well as writing to them. Mr Rimmer reported that the *KCC Freight Action Plan* which shows recommended routes across Kent for HGV drivers is no longer being promoted as it was having little effect on driver route choice.

6. **Campaign for A21 Safety improvements (SAG)**
Ted Bennett reported that, since the last committee meeting, many more deer have been killed on the Stonecrouch section of the A21 and in some cases causing severe damage/ traffic delays. It was agreed that SAG and GPC would write to National Highways asking for deer warning signs to be installed. **Action: Ted Bennett and Cllr David Boniface.**

SAG received a letter from National Highways on 04 October summarising the current status of this project. It stated that risks were being assessed at the junction of Rosemary Lane although there was no news about possible risk assessments or other assessments at the junction with Kilndown Road. A feasibility study has been started for work to install average speed control cameras which will be completed in early 2023. This news was welcomed by the Highways Committee. Detailed design for improvements to road markings and signage is now complete, although no map has been sent showing where the double white lines will be marked or what

changes to signage are being planned. These details would be very helpful at this stage. It was **agreed** that GPC and SAG would write to National Highways asking for updates on the improvements and for clear information about the likely timescale for implementation. **Action: Ted Bennett and Cllr David Boniface.**

Ted Bennett raised again the question of installing place name signs, one on either side of the A21, indicating the location of Stonecrouch. It was **agreed** that this was a worthwhile project as it could make drivers feel that Stonecrouch was a place where people lived, and they would be more inclined to lower their speed. Exactly how to pursue this matter was not clear. Clerk to investigate location/ boundaries, safety implications and costs. **Action: Clerk.**

7. **Response from KCC regarding traffic management for the closure of the A262 April 2022.**
This matter was not discussed.

8. **Replacement of EV charge points**

It was **noted** that a quote had been received from Connected Kerb, the contractors hired by KCC for their EV scheme for Villages, quoting £8205 for the units and installation plus an annual fee of £454 for maintenance and £162 for software licence amounting to £10,053 over three years. BP Pulse is quoting £7,801 and Pod Point, recommended by our advisor Mr Huntingdon, have quoted £7,773. However, Home Car Charging Solutions, a local firm installing Pod Point units, has quoted £3746. Therefore, the question is why are Home Car Charging Solutions £4,000 cheaper than Pod Point for essentially the same 22K units? It was **agreed** that this would be put to Howard Huntingdon. **Action: Cllr David Boniface.**

9. **Application to KCC to reroute HGVs away from Goudhurst village**

The Chairman reported that the application made by GPC in 2018 for an alternative route via the A228 and the M20 to take HGVs from the Tunbridge Wells area, through to Ashford and the Channel Ports was still very serviceable and a good standard document. However, Section 3.2.6 mentions air quality, noise and danger to people but does not contain any figures or risk assessments. Jeff Rimmer has engaged with the Tunbridge Wells department for measuring air pollution and was hopeful of obtaining figures. Additionally, it was **agreed** to make budget provision for hiring a portable air quality monitoring meter in case that should be needed to measure air pollution on Goudhurst High Street. It was further **noted** that Kent Highways do not use the standard risk assessments for traffic purposes, rather, each site is assessed on its own merits. It was agreed that Mr Rimmer would forward to the Chairman the various email communications from Paul Leary (KCC) and Annette Fletcher (Freight Officer). **Action: Jeff Rimmer.**

10. **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)**

It was noted that the approved, revised format HIP has been submitted to Jake Smith at Kent Highways on 13 October 2022.

11. **Highways Budget for 2023-24**

The Chairman summarised the projects for which he had sought funding, namely the speed limit reduction to 50mph on the A262 at Iden Green and traffic calming on the Cranbrook Road adjacent to the junction with Beaman Close. In addition, he had included funding for the EV charge points as discussed under a previous item and a budget for occasional small expenditure which would be used to cover a range of minor, ad-hoc, highways-related items which could crop up from time to time. It was noted that, due to the Council's predicted underspend in the current financial year (2022-2023), the Finance Committee have decided that these items will be included in current budget rather than in 2023-24. This means that they would have to be implemented by the end of March 2023 and if this is not possible, the monies will be ring-

fenced for the 2023-2024 financial year. **Action: Cllr David Boniface to inform Kent Highways of the urgency of progressing the current projects.**

12. Complaints received from residents.

It was noted that between 14 August and 18 October 2022, five separate complaints had been received relating to highways issues, mostly the speed of traffic travelling through the parish. One slightly unusual complaint was about the excessive run off from Chequers Road into the frontage of houses (near Morebreddis)

13. Next Highways Committee Meeting on Tuesday 13 December 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Extract from John Reynold's Letter 26 September 2022

All works on the highway require a permit to be submitted to Kent County Councils Streetworks Team to review and agree. When permits are applied for to work on the highway, there are conditions that are included by Kent County Councils Streetworks Team which the works promoter has to adhere to. As part of these works, *UKPN were instructed to carry out an extensive letter drop to affected residents and businesses, to provide an overview to the Parish Council so that comments could be made in advance of the works as well as advance warning signs to be installed at least 3 weeks prior to works commencing.*

[DB 3 weeks advance notice is not good enough – GPC should be shown the proposed diversion arrangements before a permit is issued]

Any breaches of conditions set out as part of the permit are dealt with by issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice. *It appears from your letter that these conditions were not adhered to, and I will escalate and raise this with UKPN as a performance issue.*

Kent County Councils Streetworks Team works with all Promoters working on the highway with traffic management proposals being reviewed as part of the permit application process. Road closures are only utilised should no other traffic management layout be appropriate to ensure that the works can be completed in the safest way for both the workforce and the road users as well as complying with the Safety at Street Works and Road Works A Code of Practice. *Unfortunately, due to the size of the excavation as well as the safety zones required as part of the traffic management layout to complete the works safely, UKPN applied for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) to close the road with an alternate route to be signed for diverted traffic.*

I have attached a copy of the public notice that was sent to all stakeholders as well as being advertised in the local newspaper in advance of the works, detailing why the road was to be closed and the alternate route that was to be used by diverted traffic. I have also attached a copy of the traffic management plan for these works, as supplied by UKPN. I agree that there is a lack of signage on each approach to the road closure points that needs to be rectified and reviewed for any other planned road closures to allow for vehicles to be diverted as early as possible and I will discuss this with the Streetworks Co-ordinator to ensure that this is included for future works. *I would like to apologise for the inconvenience and for the various issues experienced as a result of these works. The Streetworks Team will continue to work with all works Promoters to ensure that all works on the highway are completed as*

efficiently and effectively as possible to reduce the impacts on residents, businesses and road users.

Kind regards,

John Reynolds

[DB Note:

ACTION – Write to John Reynolds asking for GPC view of plans at earlier stage than he considers necessary.

ACTION – Ask Sean Holden for feedback from his representations to Full KCC Council meeting.]