

## WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016

#### PRESENT

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr R Pushman           | Chairman                                     |
| Mr S Brown             | General Manager, Wycombe Air Park            |
| Councillor M Harris    | WDC Member, Greater Marlow                   |
| Councillor Z Ahmed     | WDC Member, Sands                            |
| Councillor D Barnes    | WDC Member, Greater Marlow                   |
| Councillor C Whitehead | WDC Member,                                  |
| Councillor J France    | Great Marlow Parish Council                  |
| Councillor M Detsiny   | Lane End Parish Council                      |
| Councillor N Snell     | Hambleden Parish Council                     |
| Mr N Phillips          | Sands Residents' Association                 |
| Mr H Luxton            | Booker Common & Woods Protection Society     |
| Mr M King              | WAPAG  |
| Mr R Martyn            | Booker Gliding Club                          |
| Mrs M Sarney           | General Manager, Wycombe Air Park            |
| Mr S Atkins            | Head of Training, Wycombe Air Park           |
| Mr J Smith             | Divisional Environmental Health Officer, WDC |

#### (2 members of the public were in attendance)

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised that he had delayed calling a meeting until such time as there were sensible matters to discuss. The usual format of questions from the public until 7.00 pm would be followed. He was happy for the public to remain for the business part of the meeting, but he would be unlikely to allow further questions or debate from them during this part of the meeting.
2. **Questions from the public**
  - Q. Jane Hallett enquired if there had been any resolution of the lease issue.
  - A. The Chairman advised that this issue would be covered in the business part of the meeting, to which she was entitled to listen.
  - Q. The same resident further asked if the creation of the sub group, referred to at the last meeting, had met and what actions had been taken as a result.
  - A. The Chairman advised that he had been unsuccessful in setting up this meeting with the council. There was a protocol to be followed in such matters which he had not adhered to and therefore the council were not prepared to meet.
  - Q. The same resident enquired as the status of the discrepancy in routes.
  - A. M Sarney advised that A Young, HeliAir, had flown the routes and was not comfortable at this point and therefore she was unable to provide a definitive answer. She confirmed all

were aware of the urgency of the situation and the fact that this had been initially discussed in October 2015.

The resident expressed her dissatisfaction and felt that operators were not adhering to their own charters.

S Brown stated that he was keen to resolve the situation and whilst the resolution may appear simple, ie changing the route, the air park needed to prove the safety case with the CAA for the whole route. He assured her that her concerns were not being ignored in any way, shape or form, but he could not offer a timescale.

The business part of the meeting started at 6.45 pm.

### **3. Duration of meeting**

R Pushman hoped that the meeting would finish between 8.00 and 8.30 pm.

### **4. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from K Chanter, G Fletcher and Cllrs M Davy; I McEnnis and N Dunn.

### **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **6. Update on Lease**

S Brown read out an agreed statement prepared between the council and himself.

Commercial terms for the lease renewal had been agreed between AAA Limited and the council, however, the content remained commercially sensitive until such time as this had been completed. He did however confirm that respite on environmental matters would be included within the lease. Whilst the lease drafting process was taking place, the council were in discussion with the other tenants of the Air Park.

S Brown considered that a sensible resolution had been reached. He also confirmed that AAA's lease would be completed before those of any sub tenants.

The Chairman considered that matters had therefore moved on since the previous meeting.

In respect of the concerns expressed by various organisations over recent years, S Brown advised that in his opinion, the council had negotiated hard and he considered he had been conciliatory on all points. As he had advised the JCC previously, it had always been his intention to look at alternative ways of generating income at the air park, without the need for increased flying activity.

N Phillips was keen to understand the detail around environmental matters as he did not consider these were commercially sensitive. S Brown confirmed that what he could release at this time had been embargoed. **The Parish Council's present asked for a copy of the joint statement that he had read out and this would be appended to the minutes.**

M King suggested that the way forward may be to lodge a Freedom of Information request with the council. S Brown reiterated that the council had negotiated very hard to ensure that the points made by concerned residents over the years were taken into consideration.

Councillor J France said that she felt she should be pleased but remained anxious as the matter appeared to be very secretive.

H Luxton enquired if there was any mention of use of the site other than as an air park, as he recalled the council going out to consultation on how some parts of the air park could be developed.

S Brown advised that the lease related to the demise that he occupied and it did not make mention of alternative uses.

The Chairman confirmed that he felt reasonably optimistic.

### **7. Noise complaints received by the air park**

S Atkins advised that every complaint received by telephone or email was investigated by either M Sarney or himself. He advised that upon investigation a considerable number of complaints were outside of the NAZ, albeit they were close. Approximately 15% of complaints were considered to be inside the NAZ and appropriate action taken with pilots. Since the last meeting, they had received 21 complaints from one resident.

M King referred to a recent problem at Innings Road, Frieth. The explanation had been that aircraft bunching had occurred. S Brown advised that much at the air park was being reviewed and just because things had been done in a certain way previously did not mean

that would continue.

N Phillips referred to a single engine aircraft that flew fast and loud and often tipped its wings. He was asked to advise the air park immediately of instances, so that they could investigate. He was also advised that in future pilots would be required to carry a tracker. The meeting heard that similar activity had been observed over Bradenham Valley and Naphill Common.

**8. Matters arising not appearing on the agenda**

N Phillips enquired as to the air park's view over the 27 metre high cellular phone mast application on land at Old Horns Lane. Councillor M Harris confirmed that he considered the mast to be too high. S Brown advised that he understood the application had been made by a consortium of cellphone operators. There was an existing telecommunications mast in the wood and he wondered why they could not use that. He would be opposing the application.

**9. Community Matters**

S Brown advised that he would like the air park to play a bigger part in the community. He hoped to be able to devise a system for the air field perimeter to be used for walking for example and he welcomed ideas from those present. He asked that the Parish Councils put this matter on their respective agendas. He also hoped to be able to encourage work experience students to come to the air park.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 6.30 pm

The Chairman thanked those present for their co-operation and good will, which had been useful.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm