

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 14th June 2016

PRESENT

Mr R Pushman	Chairman
Councillor M Harris	WDC Member, Greater Marlow
Councillor Z Ahmed	WDC Member, Sands
Councillor D Barnes	WDC Member, Greater Marlow
Councillor I McEnnis	WDC Member,
Councillor J France	Great Marlow Parish Council
Councillor M Detsiny	Lane End Parish Council
Mr N Phillips	Sands Residents' Association
Mr H Luxton	Booker Common & Woods Protection Society
Mr K Chanter	Frieth Village Society
Mr P Allies	WAPAG
Mr R Martyn	Booker Gliding Club
Mrs M Sarney	General Manager, Wycombe Air Park
Mr S Atkins	Head of Training, Wycombe Air Park

(1 member of the public was in attendance)

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and opened the public part of the meeting, which would be 30 minutes duration. If questions/comments did not take the whole duration, he would formally open the JCC meeting when the public would no longer be able to speak, unless in he considered this to be particularly pertinent.
2. **Duration of meeting**
The Chairman anticipated that this would be around 8.00 pm.
3. **Questions from the public**
Before he opened the floor to the public, the Chairman wished to share some information he had received from Wycombe District Council, regarding the lease, for which he had permission.
The information had been provided by C Brocklehurst, Major Projects & Estates Executive. "We have been through a number of drafts of the lease to AAA with our respective solicitors present and are close to completing the document. Thereafter its key terms will be made available to interested parties – until completion it remains commercially sensitive. We have attempted to incorporate provisions that relate to noise issues but are statutorily bound to achieve "best consideration", so have had to balance this against the need to support and encourage investment into the operation of the air park and the financial return the council gets from it.
Our negotiations with other occupiers of the Airpark continue – the principal sub tenants becoming direct council tenants, once the lease to AAA completes.

We are finalising a newsletter to all stakeholder groups, which I will share with you and other local Members before sending it, hopefully later this week”.

The Chairman advised that he took this letter to mean that noise abatement measures specified in the noise action plan, had been included within the lease, and he therefore considered that this would address many of the concerns that had previously been raised.

Q. Cllr M Detsiny stated that he had attended a meeting recently whereby the air park site had been designated as the major industrial development site in the council’s Local Plan and therefore the composition of this site would change. Cllr J France also raised concerns as large areas of it would be taken out of Green Belt.

A. Cllr M Harris advised that the document was at proposal stage and out for consultation and therefore objections could be lodged with the local authority. Cllr D Barnes advised that the council wanted the air park to continue. He considered there to be much scaremongering currently and there were serious limitations to the use of land close to the air park, which was an important asset to the community.

Q. H Luxton enquired if there was development on the air park site would this restrict the flexibility to alter flight paths and therefore limit noise abatement measures.

A. S Atkins advised that the only restriction would be if the gliders were to move to another area.

Q. B Pearce considered that the 22 acres of air park should be kept open and he felt encouraged by what he had heard.

The Chairman advised that the lease would guarantee the future of the air park for some 50 years and allow for the much needed investment to take place. Buildings and appearances would improve and he considered noise nuisance would be reduced because of the other means of instruction that would be introduced, such as flight simulators.

Technically the business part of the meeting should start at 7.00 pm but as there were no further questions from the public, the Chairman opened this part of the meeting at 6.45 pm.

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from S Brown, A Mann, J Smith and Councillors Dunn, Davey and Whitehead.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2016

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Whilst it had been advised that a copy of the joint statement would be circulated, this had not been forthcoming. The Chairman agreed to rectify this.

6. Noise Complaints received by the air park

M Sarney advised that there had been more than usual during May. HeliAir had held a 3 day event over a weekend. The Sunday was particularly sunny and the route flown had been via Taplow, following the river to Windsor. The same route had been flown by a number of helicopters and had transported many passengers. A number of complaints had been received particularly from Munday Dean and the route was changed and apologies offered to residents. She advised that lessons had been learned.

An invitation had been extended to visit the air park, to a new resident at Finings Road, Lane End.

Cllr Harris advised that in respect of the phone mast planning application, this had been withdrawn.

Discussion took place around the lease and the fact that once it was signed, if there were insufficient noise abatement measures in place, there would be nothing residents could do and he felt that the JCC should be made aware of the contents relating to this aspect of the lease. This was echoed by Cllr M Detsiny who added that he could not understand why the agreement in relation to noise was a commercially sensitive issue. If the JCC could have no input or comment, he questioned the point of its existence. He went on to say that if the JCC could have sight of the clause relating to noise before the lease was signed it could be sure that it was in agreement. On this particular point, he was not prepared to accept the assurance of the Chairman, because he felt that the JCC should be able to see that particular part of the lease as it fundamentally affected the community. Cllr D Barnes suggested that

the JCC ask both parties to agree to the release of that information. Discussion also took place around GPS for all aircraft; the use of silencers. N Phillips also asked that the number of aircraft movements again be published. M Sarney advised that she had been informed that this was currently considered commercially sensitive information and this could not be shared until the lease had been signed. She agreed to provide them retrospectively to those who wished to see them upon completion of the lease. P Allies requested sight of the noise action plan. The Chairman agreed to write formally to C Brocklehurst in this vein and provide a copy of his letter and any response to the committee.

7. Community Matters

M Sarney spoke about the need for a review of the cafe arrangements at the air park. Currently there were some exclusive rights but once the lease had been signed this would allow alternative arrangements to be put in place as soon as practicable. In addition, it would be necessary for the air park boundaries to be secure.

8. Date of Next Meeting

20th September 2016 at 6.30 pm

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm