

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 15th October 2015

PRESENT

Mr R Pushman	Chairman
Councillor M Harris	WDC Member, Greater Marlow
Councillor Z Ahmed	WDC Member, Sands
Councillor M Davy	WDC Member, Booker and Cressex
Councillor D Barnes	WDC Member, Greater Marlow
Councillor N Dunn	Great Marlow Parish Council
Mr N Phillips	Sands Residents' Association
Mr K Chanter	Frieth Village Society
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

(4 members of the public were in attendance)

1. The Chairman had advised he would be late and Cllr Z Ahmed, Vice Chair, commenced the meeting with the 30 minute public participation session.
2. **Questions from the public**
 - Q. Resident, Spring Coppice, advised that consultation had been ongoing with the Air Park over the last few months, regarding noise from helicopters over Spring Coppice. There had been some improvement, which had inevitably lapsed and there were two incidents today, from Heli Air aircraft, worthy of mention. Heli Air had been contacted and the pilot had telephoned them. The pilot confirmed he had been following the GPS route and that route went straight over their garden. It was the residents understanding that the route was nowhere near their garden so there appeared to be a large discrepancy over what was the route.
 - A. After further investigation, it appeared that when pilots were asked to fly to the left of the route it took them over their garden. The resident had flown with Leon from Heli Air, who had taken off facing the motorway; turned 90 degrees and just followed that line which took them left of the stables and houses. M Sarney advised that A Young had confirmed that the same route had been followed and so both he and Leon needed to discuss routes and fly together to make a comparison. Cllr M Davy suggested putting a landmark to the left of the stables to assist pilots.

The Chairman then joined the meeting; apologised for being late and that he also required to leave by 7.45 pm. He reiterated that the public participation session was very worthwhile. However, he advised that he would no longer take questions from the public in the business part of the meeting. In addition, he considered that for the past 12-18 months, largely because of the state of limbo regarding the lease arrangements with Wycombe District Council, there had been a severe curtailment in what he considered the JCC should be. The

JCC should reflect concerns of residents and in recent months he felt it had not addressed those concerns in a meaningful way. He further stated that the Air Park would continue for the foreseeable future, as the legalities of the current lease meant that it could continue in its present state for the next 12 years. However, there was a lot of investment that the Air Park wanted to make but this was dependent on successful lease negotiations and as far he understood the lease negotiations were still ongoing.

Cllr D Barnes, whilst declaring a personal interest, advised that the next meeting of the two parties was scheduled for 17th November and with that in mind, the Chairman asked that S Brown be asked to attend the next meeting. The Chairman continued in that he had not wanted to cancel this meeting, nor bring everyone here to talk about nothing. He therefore suggested forming a working group of 4/5 members who could put together a meaningful agenda and the next JCC would be convened following this exercise. He reminded the meeting that there was pressure to revisit the Specification Order and for a decision regarding the lease to be made. He was also mindful of the comments made by S Brown in that if he could invest in the Air Park, he hoped to diversity away from just flying, and if this could be achieved then it was his belief that some of the issues would disappear.

It was therefore agreed that a sub group consisting of K Chanter, N Dunn, S Brown or M Sarney, Cllr Z Ahmed, R Martyn, S Atkins, a representative from Heli Air and the Chairman would meet to examine the current situation and draw up an agenda for a meeting in the New Year. An invitation to attend would also be extended to Leader and/or CEO at the Council.

3. Duration of meeting

R Pushman hoped that the business part of the meeting could finish by 7.45 pm.

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from S Brown, Cllrs C Whitehead; I McEnnis and M Detsiny, G Fletcher and A Mann.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2015

The Chairman confirmed that he had visited some residents in Frieth, speaking with six of them. Of those, four were not dramatically affected, one considered to be seriously affected and the other was indifferent. He confirmed that he would undertake this exercise again. The minutes of the meeting were subsequently agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Proposed Training Route Changes

S Atkins confirmed that the routes had not changed. What they did try to do when the gliders were not in operation was to use the south side of the airfield to cut a lane between Skirmett and Frieth. He reminded the meeting that there had been pressure from residents in Frieth to reduce noise in that vicinity as the only respite they reported was when the weather had been bad.

7. Noise complaints received by the air park

M Sarney confirmed that all complaints received were recorded. Correspondence had been received from A Mann and mention was made of Professor King's communication. Following the incident at Shoreham, P Allies had written to the Secretary of State and the Leader of the Council, suggesting there was a risk from the Air Park. It was considered that a sense of frustration had lead to this situation.

M Sarney advised that formal statistics could not as yet be discussed. However, she confirmed they were on par with the same number received last year even though R06 had been used more frequently.

K Chanter reported on flying which had taken place on 28th and 29th August when aircraft movements were at a high level resulting in a great deal of noise and infringement of the NAZ to residents of Frieth. He gave details of some aircraft, including the fact that the first one was observed in the NAZ as early as 8.57 am. He advised that he was at St Katharine's on those dates and particularly well placed to monitor aircraft movements.

Cllr M Davy enquired whether complaints got logged and closed down. S Adkins confirmed that no complaints were forgotten about. He considered that when all helicopters had GPS tracking this would greatly assist the complaints process.

N Phillips enquired as to his query regarding aerobatics and M Sarney confirmed she would look back at her records and advise him accordingly.

8. Community Matters

M Sarney advised that the air park do facilitate visits by groups but currently had limited facilities. Whilst they would like to do more now, any investment was dependent on successful lease negotiations.

However, they had just got a flight simulator, which would reduce some of the flying. She also reiterated that they would be understanding of requests for flying respite and would do their best to accommodate same.

9. Matters arising not appearing elsewhere

There were none.

10. Date of Next Meeting

This would be advised in due course but would be in the New Year.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm