

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 22nd November 2012

PRESENT

Mr R Pushman	Chairman
Mr D Phillips	General Manager, Wycombe Air Park
Councillor R Emmett	WDC Member, Hambleden
Councillor Z Ahmed	WDC Member, Sands
Councillor D White	Hambleden Parish Council
Councillor N Timberlake	West Wycombe Parish Council
Mr H Luxton	Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Mr R Wetenhall	Wycombe Air Park Action Group (WAPAG)
Mr N Phillips	Sands Residents' Association
Mr R Martyn	Booker Gliding Club
Mr J Smith	Divisional Environmental Health Officer, WDC

(3 members of the public were in attendance)

1. The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and opened the public participation section of the meeting.

Q. Mrs Pratt, resident of Spring Coppice, Lane End, enquired what further action had been taken in respect of helicopters over her locality.

A. D Phillips replied that he was undertaking much work in this area. GPS tracking had been installed; he met on a weekly basis with the helicopter services operating at the air park and he consistently encouraged them to adhere to the specified routes. Mr Pratt advised that in his opinion, the major offenders were visitors to the air park. It was noted that such helicopters were unlikely to be fitted with GPS tracking and often they would not be seen again. In this regard, D Phillips advised that the best he could do was to continually reinforce the briefing materials provided for visiting aircraft. He asked for quick notification of any transgressions and it was agreed a text or call to him would be helpful. He agreed to look at the percentage of visiting helicopters and advise Mr & Mrs Pratt of the numbers. H Luxton enquired as to what powers the air park management had over visiting aircraft and D Phillips confirmed that he could impose a penalty in the form of a fine or a ban.

Councillor N Timberlake wished to record his thanks on behalf of West Wycombe Parish Council for the cessation of flying in the vicinity at the time of the Remembrance Service.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from K Dearman; Councillor J Richards and Councillor I McEnnis. Apologies for lateness were recorded from R Wetenhall and Councillor Z Ahmed advised that he would need to leave early as he had another commitment.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Revised Draft Constitution

Firstly, the Chairman thanked the Sub Group for the work they had undertaken in this respect. In reviewing the constitution the Sub Group had referred back to the guidelines and reflected, what in their view, was considered to be best practice. The Chairman asked the meeting to also bear in mind that the constitution could be adjusted in future by resolution, if necessary.

The meeting went through the constitution an item at a time and certain amendments agreed. The revised amended constitution is appended to these minutes.

5. Matters of report not appearing elsewhere on the agenda

N Phillips had asked for a GPS print out of the logs for R06 and R35. D Phillips agreed to provide these.

6. DEFRA Noise Action Plan

The Working Group, comprising of R Wetenhall, R Martyn, J Smith and D Phillips and set up to consider this matter, had unfortunately not yet been able to meet. That said, D Phillips advised the meeting that the CAA had also not quite finalised all the noise mapping required of them under the Government requirements. D Phillips reminded the meeting that he had been directed to produce a noise action plan, which identified the measures to be put in place to minimise/reduce the noise footprint over the next 5 years.

Discussion ensued regarding both the consultation process and timescales. The Chairman reminded the meeting that this was D Phillip's action plan and not that of the JCC, but D Phillips wished to use the relationship that he had with the JCC to distribute the plan and gather feedback on it.

J Smith suggested that the Working Group should meet within the next 7-10 working days, and thereafter if this was required in order to evolve the plan further and also take receipt of the additional noise mapping which remained outstanding, and which was expected in December. He considered this would result in a fairly good draft being able to be issued with the agenda for the next JCC and meaningful discussion held. Once discussion had taken place and a further draft issued (assuming amendments were made) all JCC members would be asked to assist the formal consultation stage by discussing same with their relevant organisations. This was agreed.

The next meeting would therefore be an extra ordinary one with a single agenda item of the DEFRA Noise Action Plan. The meeting would take place on Tuesday 22nd January 2013 at 6.30 pm, to which the public would be invited to observe.

7. Noise Complaints received by the Air Park

D Phillips reported that he had received very few, but he had received 18 complaints from 1 location at Chisbridge Farm. He was working with the resident to try and find a solution. He had only received 3 complaints of helicopters in this period.

N Phillips made an observation in that when R06 was in use at the beginning of the day, aircraft appeared on course, however, it was later in the day when transgressions happened. D Phillips agreed to look at R06 departures.

R Wetenhall suggested that it might be useful to have a report that identified trends and any learning arising from them. D Phillips agreed to do this.

8. Noise Complaints received by Wycombe District Council

J Smith reported that he had not received any complaints in this period.

9. Reports from other bodies

H Luxton advised that there had been no reports through the Booker Common and Woods Protection Society.

10. Letters received

There had been none.

11. Planning Matters

D Phillips advised that the lease negotiations continued with Wycombe District Council.

12. Community Matters

There had been none to report.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary meeting of the JCC would be held on Thursday 18th April 2013 at 6.30 pm.

There would be an extra ordinary meeting of the JCC on Tuesday 22nd January 2013 at 6.30 pm to discuss the DEFRA Noise Action Plan.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm