

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 25th April 2017

PRESENT

Mr R Pushman	Chairman
Councillor Z Ahmed	WDC Member, Sands
Councillor I McEnnis	WDC Member, Chiltern Rise
Councillor N Dunn	Great Marlow Parish Council
Mr N Phillips	Sands Residents' Association
Mr H Luxton	Booker Common & Woods Protection Society
Mr A Mann	WAPAG
Mr R Martyn	Booker Gliding Club
Mrs M Sarney	Wycombe Air Park
Mr K Black	SMS Manager, Wycombe Air Park
Mr A Stevenson	Deputy Chief Flying Instructor, Wycombe Air Park
Mr J Smith	Divisional Environmental Health Officer, WDC

(5 members of the public were in attendance)

1. From 6.00 pm there was an open forum discussion on alternative routes facilitated by Alastair Stevenson, Deputy Chief Flying Instructor with Kris Black in attendance.
A resident from Pheasants advised that in the last six months the situation with aircraft had got much worse – in the previous 5 years there had been little issue, and she therefore asked that the air park revert to “what they had been doing”.
Discussion took place around climb out, turning, height of flying, wind blowing the noise footprint and engine failure practice.
Further discussion took place around the use of silencers to assist with the noise footprint and that it was believed this was an integral part of the lease.
The potential for electric aircraft was also raised.
The resident from Pheasants reiterated that her situation was now intolerable and she put this down to the fact that by avoiding a certain property (she believed Mr Rendells) this had exacerbated her situation.
Discussion again turned to the fact that if newer, quieter planes were in operation, residents would reap the benefits. It was however noted that there was now more use of flight simulators and that was considered helpful.
N Phillips enquired about the technical report on silencers from the Chief Engineer, which he considered had been promised previously. J Smith remarked that during the investigation he had been involved with some time ago, the fitting of silencers had made an appreciable difference to sound levels.
The meeting felt that they needed to understand the policy of the air park and be provided with a timeline detailing the action to be taken as per the lease requirements.
The JCC proper then took place and the Chairman asked that any points be made through him.

2. Duration of meeting

The Chairman anticipated that this would be around 8.00 pm.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from S Brown, Councillors Harris and Barnes, Keith Chanter, Simon Atkins and Andrew Young.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2016

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

5. Matters Arising

There were none.

6. New radio approach at the Air Park

K Black outlined the changes proposed to the way aircraft approached the air park and that there was a consultation process to which he had 56 responses so far. This ran until 7th June. As the JCC was a key stakeholder he encouraged responses through the Parish Councils.

The Chairman referred to the recent Bucks Free Press article, which had been given a particular slant by the journalist.

The earliest this new process could be implemented was March 2018 if they met all the CAA requirements. K Black advised that this would not increase traffic nor night flying and applied to a small margin of aircraft on R24 only and would be used in conjunction with the existing visual approaches to R06, R24 and R35.

The air park was proposing the changes to further increase the safety of operations in marginal conditions; to enable operations to continue in poorer weather; to reduce the likelihood of diversion to other airfields and to provide capability for the air park to conduct instrument approach training at the air field.

K Black confirmed that aircraft could not take off using this procedure; it was only for aircraft terminating at the air park and was for daylight use in poor visibility.

He reiterated his request for responses and confirmed he would update the meeting in due course.

7. Noise Complaints received by the Air Park

M Sarney presented the information from January 17 – March 17. Movements had been 13,201 which had resulted in 16 complaints to the air park. The meeting again considered the issue of the public's general fatigue over complaints and whether complaints received were from a range of people/location or from the same people/location. M Sarney advised that in this quarter complaints had primarily been from the Skirmett/Frieth area. Discussion took place around the usefulness of the website for logging complaints and it was agreed that the web address be provided to Parish Council's to publicise in their newsletters. J Smith and M Sarney to investigate to ascertain whether the Wycombe District Council link on their website directed complaints direct to the air park.

8. Matters of report not appearing elsewhere

There were none.

9. Community Matters

M Sarney advised that Aero Expo would again be taking place on 1st - 3rd June 2017 and that up to 250 aircraft per day were expected during this period, with the majority needing to land before 1.00 pm. There would be no other flying from the air park on these days and the air park would be closed on Sunday 4th June.

On Saturday 3rd June she further advised that there would be a 1 hour flying display over the airfield and she asked all present to publicise this. She further advised that Aero Expo was an online ticket event but if any members of the JCC wished to attend she asked that they contact her.

With regard to the new café, the air park was currently looking for a chef/cook.

As Wycombe District Council's Armed Forces Champion, Councillor McEnnis advised that it was 25 years since the cessation of the Falkland conflict and the British Legion were

considering a tribute in the form of 255 boots (representing the losses) with a poppy in each and wanted a site to set these up. Armed Forces Week would run from 14th – 25th June. He was asked to send in the detail of his request to K Black.

In addition, next year was the centenary year of RAFA and the RAF and he wondered if some further thought might be given to this event also.

10. AOB

Councillor N Dunn advised that there was a large amount of builders rubble sited by the bins, which was unsightly and which he considered may attract fly tipping. M Sarney confirmed she was aware of this and that work was in progress and this would be removed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

18th July 2017 at 6.30 pm

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm