

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 25th April 2012

PRESENT

Mr J M Blanksby	Chairman
Mr D Phillips	General Manager, Wycombe Air Park
Councillor R Emmett	WDC Member, Hambleden
Councillor I McEnnis	WDC Member, Chiltern Rise
Councillor J Richards, OBE	WDC Member, Greater Marlow
Mr E Collins	Co-opted Member and Vice Chairman
Mr N Timberlake	West Wycombe Parish Council
Mr N Dunn	Great Marlow Parish Council
Mr H Luxton	Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Mr R Martyn	Booker Gliding Club
Group Cpt K Dearman	Wycombe Air Centre
Mr A Young	HeliAir
Mr J Smith	Divisional Environmental Health Officer, WDC

1. The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies had been received from Councillor A Barnard, Marlow Bottom Parish Council; B Jonson, Great Marlow Parish Council who had sent a replacement; Councillor Z Ahmed, WDC Member Sands and Councillor S Parker, WDC Member Booker and Cressex.
3. **Duration of Meeting**
The Chairman advised that it was his intention to finish the business part of the meeting by 8.00 pm when it was hoped that there may be some members of the public wishing to join the meeting.
4. **Membership of the JCC**
The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from T Orchard advising that he had resigned from the JCC and that David Phillips was his replacement at the Air Park. The Chairman stated that Tim had been a member of the JCC for 15 years and that he had enjoyed working with him immensely and that he had developed a great deal of respect for him both as a gentleman of integrity and honesty and for all matters aeronautical. He had always supported the JCC, the local community and various voluntary organisations and he wished him well for the future.
The Chairman then advised the meeting that he had become concerned regarding a number of matters outside of the JCC and coupled with the many changes, notwithstanding the change in management at the Air Park, he had considered that it was an appropriate time for him to step down. He had held the role of Chairman since 1995 and he felt it was time for someone else to

take up the role. He wished to thank the members of the JCC for their support over the years, in particular that of Ted Collins and Sue Fryer and he wished the JCC well for the future.

T Collins advised that he had been a long serving member of the JCC and had seen it grow from a sub committee of the Environmental Health Committee, meeting in camera with no interest groups in attendance, to what it had become today. He wished to pay tribute to Allan Duggin, who had also been instrumental, along with himself, in securing public participation. He advised that he had considered the Chair had always endeavoured to mitigate the effects of noise on the environment while ensuring the commercial viability of the air park, and with the loss of Tim Orchard and Malcolm Blanksby, he too had also decided to step aside.

M Blanksby stated that it was now up to the JCC to elect a Chairman for the meeting. After discussion, Councillor R Emmett agreed to take the chair for this meeting. Both M Blanksby and T Collins left the meeting at this point.

5. R Emmett stated that he considered it important from the public's point of view that an independent chairman was chosen. N Timberlake endorsed this and it was suggested that potential nominees be canvassed to fill that role. R Emmett agreed to take this forward.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2011 were tabled. R Emmett suggested that item no. 6 had inferred that the outgoing Chairman had been the only representative of the JCC at the meeting with the DFT, when in fact Councillor I McEnnis and he had been in attendance, acting as both District Councillors and members of the JCC.

With that amendment the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

7. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from employees and operators of the air park.

8. Matters Arising

R Martyn enquired as to what had taken place at the meeting with the DFT. R Emmett advised that both he and I McEnnis together with Sands Residents Association had been in attendance. WAPAG had also attended but had not taken part in the meeting, and it had been understood the DFT had intended to meet with them separately afterwards.

D Phillips advised that he had been in his first week as Air Park Manager, and he considered that the meeting had recognised the need for local consultation and that to proceed with specification was not the preferred option. R Emmett also considered that a local solution was the preferred option. J Smith advised that the DFT were also in the process of reviewing the national guidance for JCCs and he considered it would be prudent to wait for this to be provided.

J Smith advised that he had distributed the 1995 O'Connor report to those members requesting a copy.

D Phillips advised that due to an oversight at the Air Park the minutes had not appeared on the website but this would be rectified and would be put on as soon as possible. The meeting considered that dates of future meetings were not well publicised and he agreed to also place these on the website. It was further agreed that rather than wait for the minutes to be ratified at a subsequent meeting before placing them on the website, they be put on in their draft form and specified as such so that people did not have to wait lengthy periods to see them. J Smith also agreed to check any references to the JCC on the WDC website and the Parish Councils were similarly asked to do this.

9. Noise Complaints received by the Air Park

D Phillips advised that he had continued with the same format. Out of an estimated 30,000 movements from 7 October 2011 – 17 April 2012, total noise complaints had amounted to 99, with 63 of that number from one individual complainant. He advised that in 5 cases there had been the ability to follow up and brief pilots. J Smith considered that complaints were down and he believed that because of the S5 Specification issue, some residents had decided not to complain. D Phillips advised the meeting that from his personal perspective he considered it important to re-engage with the community and in particular with complainants.

N Timberlake advised that an issue had arisen last year for his Parish Council in that aircraft had flown over St Lawrence's Church in West Wycombe on Remembrance Sunday morning and he asked if this could be avoided in future. D Phillips gave his assurance that this would not happen

again.

10. Wycombe District Council Aircraft Monitoring Report

J Smith advised that no monitoring had been undertaken due to lack of resources and that this looked likely to be the situation looking ahead. He also confirmed that he had not received any complaints.

11. Reports from other bodies

H Luxton reported that no complaints had been received through the Booker Common and Woods Protection Society.

- 12.** D Phillips advised that the issue of GPS Tracking was raised at the meeting with the DFT. This system enabled data on aircraft to be collected which could then be used to identify where an aircraft had been at a particular time in the day. He considered that this could be an important tool with which to re-engage with the community and he advised the JCC that he had purchased sufficient equipment to be able to put them in all of the aircraft he operated. He had also received prior agreement from one of the helicopter companies and had yet to approach HeliAir to install same in their aircraft. He hoped that this would be seen by the community as an indication that he would take any complaints seriously and police to the best of his ability. He would be able to run reports for each JCC. J Smith stated that the council was very supportive of this development and he considered eventually may restrict the number of violations reported. The software company were in the process of finalising the programmes and D Phillips indicated that he hoped to have this working by the end of May.

13. Letters Received

There were none.

14. Planning Matters

There were none.

15. Community Matters

Whilst there were no specific community matters to report, D Phillips reiterated his desire to engage with the community and he welcomed any interaction with them.

16. AOB

J Richards requested a formal resolution to thank M Blanksby and T Collins for their long service to the JCC and to T Orchard for his work at the air park. It was suggested this should be released through the Bucks Free Press. He also considered that it was a way to also introduce D Phillips as the new Air Park Manager. This was agreed and D Phillips to draft a release and circulate to the current Chair and J Smith for comment.

J Richards also suggested that open days might be a good way of interacting with the community. D Phillips confirmed that senior management at the air park were currently in early negotiations with Wycombe District Council regarding the future of the air park but as part of this, were keen to develop their role within the community.

R Martyn enquired as to D Phillip's view on public participation. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that any new Chair should be allowed to have a view on this and any changes to the constitution appropriately made.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th July, 6.30 pm at the Air Park.