

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 27th September 2012

PRESENT

Mr R Pushman	Chairman
Mr D Phillips	General Manager, Wycombe Air Park
Councillor R Emmett	WDC Member, Hambleden
Councillor I McEnnis	WDC Member, Chiltern Rise
Councillor Z Ahmed	WDC Member, Sands
Councillor D White	Hambleden Parish Council
Councillor M Detsiny	Lane End Parish Council
Mr H Luxton	Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Mr R Wetenhall	Wycombe Air Park Action Group (WAPAG)
Mr R Martyn	Booker Gliding Club
Mr A Young	Heli Air
Mr J Smith	Divisional Environmental Health Officer, WDC

(9 members of the public were in attendance)

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the public participation section of the meeting. He advised that he would take any items from the floor and the JCC would endeavour to answer them. He confirmed that he was not an Executive Chairman and his role was to conduct meetings fairly and ensure all those that wished were able to have their say. He reminded the meeting of its purpose and that it was in everyone's interests to achieve the best for the community, the employees of the air park and the local residents.

Q. Wayne Pendle, resident of High Wycombe asked when the council assisted WAPAG with their Section 5 Specification Application whether there had been consultation to determine the wider feelings of the community at large. He also asked for the JCC members to declare any interests.

A. J Smith advised that when WAPAG made the Section 5 Application, the council had been asked for their opinion by the Department for Transport (DFT). Local councillors had been involved in the process together with the relevant Cabinet Member and a decision was made in an open Cabinet meeting to support the WAPAG application. Whilst this decision had no direct public participation this decision had been made through open government.

Q. Nigel Phillips, Sands stated that last Saturday 22nd September at approximately 1300 hours when R06 had been in use a glider tug had flown within the NAZ. Another resident present confirmed that he had monitored from his garden in a 2 hour period, 46 aircraft.

A. D Phillips stated that he would not have expected to have seen the aircraft at that location and confirmed that he would investigate this matter.

There were no other questions from the public and this session closed at 6.40 pm.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

R Pushman proposed R Emmett to the post. This was seconded by I McEnnis and there were no other nominations. R Emmett was confirmed in the post of Vice Chairman. He thanked the JCC for their confidence in him. He advised that he was currently Vice Chairman of the council and he anticipated that from May 2013 he would become Chairman which would require his attendance at more outside functions and so he asked the JCC for their tolerance should he need to give apologies. In addition he advised that it was necessary for him to leave early this evening as he had a prior council function.

3. Duration of Meeting

It was the intention of the Chairman that the business part of the meeting should take no longer than 1½ hours with the 30 minute public participation session in addition to this time.

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from K Dearman and Councillors J Richards and S Parker.

5. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman proposed that a register be completed for all attendees which could be published on the air park's website, which would mean that declarations need not be made at each meeting unless there were any material changes which had not been previously declared.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2012 were tabled. D White requested his initial be corrected. He also asked why county and district councillors were so denoted whilst parish councillors were titled Mr. The Chairman advised that the protocol for Bucks County Councillors was in fact to be called Mr with the initials BCC after their name. However, he understood the issue and it was agreed to extend the courtesy of the title councillor to parish councillors. With those amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

7. Matters of report not appearing elsewhere on the agenda

D Phillips advised that he had circulated some proposed amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference and unsurprisingly he had received various comments. He understood the DFT were working on a revision to their existing guidance, but publication was not imminent. R Wetenhall advised that from WAPAG's perspective, the Constitution was one of the problems with the JCC and he considered in its current form it had led to a pattern of abuse in relation to its powers to co-opt members and he firmly believed the Chairman as now, should be independent. D Phillips suggested a small Sub Group be formed to work up a Constitution that would be fit for purpose.

D White considered that the current guidelines suggested a Secretariat with greater powers which could include the ability to put any item from members onto the agenda and to facilitate the provision of technical advice to lay members. D Phillips considered that the minute taking was a separate issue and whilst he understood the request for the JCC to have some kind of mechanism to allow unfettered access to professional/technical advice when necessary, the monetary cost of this to him could be high. He asked for time to explore this and suggested this should form part of the Sub Group's remit.

Cllr Z Ahmed requested that Sands Residents' Association (SRA) be included within the Constitution. N Phillips from the SRA confirmed that they would like a seat at the table.

It was agreed that the Sub Group consist of the Chairman; D Phillips; D White; R Wetenhall and J Smith. D Phillips hoped to be able to come back to the next meeting of the JCC with a first draft of a revised Constitution and Terms of Reference.

8. DEFRA Noise Action Plan

D Phillips advised that he had received the outcome of the noise mapping exercise from the CAA and in addition he and J Smith had subsequently met with the DFT and DEFRA to clarify the way forward. It would be necessary for him to conduct an informal consultation, using the best mechanism, which he considered to be through the JCC. Following this informal consultation, he was then required to go to a formal consultation, the guideline for which was 16 weeks. (DEFRA had indicated during their meeting that the 16 week guidance could be shortened.) Once this had

been undertaken, he was required to consider any comments and present a draft noise action plan to the Secretary of State for approval, for which there appeared no timescale.

D Phillips considered that the best way forward was to form a further Sub Group to consider the noise action plan in detail and provide a draft to the JCC which could, if considered fit for purpose, start the informal part of the process, which he considered should be the fuller consultation and which could then reduce the formal consultation period currently suggested at 16 weeks. A reasonable timescale could then be agreed for the final consultation.

Nominations for the Sub Group were invited and it was agreed this would consist of D Phillips; J Smith; R Martyn and R Wetenhall. R Wetenhall stated that he believed the work undertaken by the CAA had been based on methodology used for large airfields and he urged for caution when considering the CAA findings.

D Phillips recognised this and assured the meeting that he would not hide behind the findings. D White enquired whether the report differentiated between actual noise and the continuous nature of the aircraft noise which he considered caused the most problems to residents. J Smith advised that it did not. The Sub Group would meet prior to the next meeting and this item would appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Noise complaints received by the Air Park

D Phillips advised that from 10th July – 25th September 2012, 125 complaints had been received, which was an increase on the previous average of 90.

79 of these aircraft had been from AFC/WAC; 31 from helicopters and 15 were either visitors or others. These complaints had been received from 17 separate people, including one anonymous. With the GPS tracker system he had been able to identify 83 aircraft, which was far higher than previously. In addition, he had undertaken proactive monitoring himself which had identified 8 aircraft where breaches had occurred.

D Phillips provided the meeting with detailed GPS data maps, which provided much detail. R Wetenhall suggested that the complaints that were made were about noise nuisance, not necessarily errant pilots and unfortunately the detailed GPS data did not advise about noise levels and he suggested that it might be that the NAZ boundaries were in fact wrong. D Phillips acknowledged the point that had been made.

10. Noise Complaints received by Wycombe District Council

J Smith advised that he had not received any noise complaints and that it was entirely correct that they should be directed to the air park as D Phillips had the ability to investigate these properly. Complainants were also now able to go to the air park website and make an electronic complaint which would be directed straight to the D Phillips.

11. Reports from other bodies

H Luxton advised that there had been no reports through the Booker Common and Woods Protection Society other than a general comment that aircraft coming in over Booker Common appeared to be “coasting” and would then accelerate, which was causing a certain amount of consternation amongst residents. There had also been a helicopter over Arundel Road that had regularly caused a noise nuisance. It had a dark body and gold stripe.

12. Letters received

The Chairman had received a letter from Sands Residents' Association advising of their interest to participate in JCC meetings and this was agreed.

D Phillips had received a letter which he had passed to M Detsiny asking the complainant to get in touch with him. M Detsiny advised that he had had no contact as yet.

13. Planning Matters

D Phillips advised that the lease negotiations with the council were in their very early stages and were ongoing. I McEnnis was asked to make enquiries of the council and report back to the next JCC. M Detsiny enquired if there was a mechanism for Parish Councils to talk to the council about the lease. The Chairman advised that this should be directed through the Wycombe District Council member and not through the JCC.

14. Community Matters

D Phillips wanted to build up relationships with the local community. Currently he had 49 Bucks New University students and 16 from Brunel University undertaking training and an open day for

local secondary schools had been scheduled for 6th October.

15. Date of next Meeting

Thursday 22nd November 2012 at 6.30 pm at the Air Park.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm