

REDHILL AERODROME CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Redhill Aerodrome Consultative Committee held on the 22nd January 2020 at 10.00am at the Redhill Aerodrome Business Centre.

PRESENT:

Terry Pollard (Chairman)
Michael Blacker (Tandridge District Council)
Jim Blackmore (Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council)
David Burke (Estates Manager, Redhill Aerodrome Ventures Limited)
Wayne Clark (Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council)
Paul Cole (NPAS)
Ian Frow (Outwood Parish Council)
Pat Glenn (Bletchingley Parish Council)
Chris Hoskins (Nutfield Conservation Society)
Jim Johnson (Nutfield Parish Council)
Paul Murray (Keep Redhill Airfield Green)
Nicholas Reihbein (EBG)
Vince Sharp (Secretary)
Nick Stagg (Chairman, Redhill Aerodrome Ventures Limited)
Nicola Taplin (Cubair)
Debbie Vickers (Tandridge District Council)
Philip Wright (Aerodrome Manager)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Derek Allcard (Reigate & Banstead Borough Council)
David Lindsay (Managing Director, Redhill Aerodrome Ventures Limited)

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME / DAVID LINDSAY

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

The Chairman announced that David Lindsay (Managing Director) would be leaving RAVL. He had received a complementary letter from David and would be responding on behalf of the Committee, wishing him well for the future.

The Chairman also advised that Councillor Derek Allcard (Reigate & Banstead BC) had sent his apologies for absence. Councillor Michael Blacker was attending as Derek's substitute.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE 19TH SEPTEMBER 2019

These were approved as a correct record.

3. UPDATE ON BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AT THE AERODROME

Nick Stagg advised that the management of the aerodrome was being reorganised. David Lindsay would be leaving at the end of the month and David Burke had been recruited to a new post of Estates Manager. David would be dealing with all property matters, ensuring that accommodation was fit for purpose and well maintained to meet tenants' needs. He would also seek to bring vacant spaces back into economic use and to maximise rental income across the estate. Nick explained that different spaces were available to let on short and longer-term leases dependant on the nature of the accommodation. Philip Wright would continue to manage airside activities and Mike Murray had been retained to advise RAVL on any longer-term development opportunities (he would cease to have day to day involvement in the aerodrome). Nick Stagg would become the aerodrome's principal contact with the CAA.

David Burke introduced himself. He explained that he was a chartered surveyor with experience of managing complex commercial investment properties. He had first become acquainted with the Aerodrome many years ago as a student pilot. Following a question from Debbie Vickers, David explained that most of the previously fire-damaged space was now let. Negotiations were proceeding with other parties and he hoped that the remaining space would become fully occupied soon. Potential tenants had also been viewing vacant space on the Business Centre. David's ambition was for the whole site to be fully let and for job creation opportunities to be fulfilled.

In response to a question from Jim Blackmore arising from the previous meeting (item 5 of the minutes) Nick Stagg confirmed that RAVL had commissioned an independent aeronautical surveyor to advise on the merits of further alterations to the taxiway to improve aviation safety. The final report had been promised during the first quarter of the year and would inform subsequent discussions with RAVL and Reigate & Banstead BC. RAVL hoped to receive initial findings within the next month.

4. IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND THE AERODROME MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING GREATER INVOLVEMENT ON THE RACC BY USERS AND OPERATORS (item requested by Paul Murray)

Paul Murray explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to prompt a constructive discussion. He believed that, while relations between the community and RAVL were better than in previous years, there was still a need for improvement. He referred to the impact of the police and air ambulance helicopter night flights on Nutfield residents and would welcome greater involvement from those operators. He was grateful for Paul Cole's presence today but noted that other operators didn't attend RACC meetings. He suggested that the parties should attempt to explore areas of agreement and concluded that, if the local community and users / operators had a better understanding of each other's situations, the consultation process would improve.

Nick Stagg reflected that David Lindsay had inherited difficult relationships and had worked hard to repair them. Nick wanted to achieve an open dialogue with aerodrome users / operators and the local community. He concurred that the parties should identify areas of common ground and seek to compromise on other issues. He would also seek to ensure that users / operators were made aware of issues arising from RACC meetings.

5. NUTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - REQUESTS FOR ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH RAVL AND THE HELICOPTER OPERATORS (item requested by John Johnson on behalf of Nutfield Parish Council)

The last such meeting had taken place in 2018. Philip Wright explained that he'd intended to arrange one since and would now do so. John Johnson stated that the Parish Council received frequent complaints about helicopter night flights and a meeting between residents and operators would help the two sides understand each other's problems. Philip undertook to ensure that the meeting would take place before June. Debbie Vickers concurred that it should be scheduled for an evening or a weekend to enable working people in the village to attend.

6. FLIGHT MONITORING

Monitoring reports for September to December 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. These comprised movement statistics; complaints by residents about aircraft movements; and incidents / accidents.

Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council had asked for clarification regarding "westerly take-offs" and its perception that flights were taking a more southerly route. Phillip Wright explained that this had been due to waterlogging on the grass runways, planes had been operating from the unlicensed runway on Taxiway C/D. The places aircraft south of the main Runway 08R/26L.

7. UPDATE ON THE 'BEECHCRAFT INCIDENT' ON 1ST AUGUST 2019 - N45CF BE18 (item requested by Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council – item 4 of the minutes of the 19th September 2019 Committee meeting refers)

Philip Wright described how the plane had failed to climb on take-off, prompting fears it was about to crash. It had been the worst take off he'd ever witnessed. He advised that a meeting about the incident had taken place on the 20th January with himself, Wayne Clark, Jim Blackmore and Crispin Blunt MP's representative. Jim confirmed that the meeting had been constructive, and Philip Wright suggested that similar, positive dialogue could take place with Parish Councils as a matter of course without having to be prompted by such incidents.

Philip explained that the plane had been banned from the aerodrome, but it had not been possible to identify the pilot or the owner. There was no apparent mechanical defect and the pilot did not engage with Redhill ATC during the take off. It was hoped that the incident was a one-off although complaints from residents at the time were fully justified.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) It was confirmed that RAVL had no power of veto regarding the wishes of other committee members to have items included on future RACC agenda.
- (ii) In response to a question from Nicholas Reihbein, Phillip Wight confirmed that procedures to allow Special VFR operations at Redhill had been agreed with NATS. The visibility and cloud limits will be published in aeronautical publications on 27 February. Locally produced pilot information will be update in due course.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Future meetings were scheduled as follows (both at 10.00am at the Redhill Aerodrome Business Centre):

- RACC meeting - Wednesday, 15th April 2020
- annual public meeting - Saturday, 20th June 2020

The meeting closed at 10.45am.