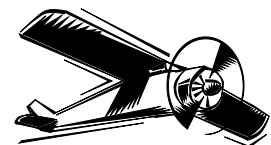


FENLAND AERO CLUB - Committee

Fenland Airfield, Jekils Bank, Holbeach St Johns Spalding, PE12 8RQ

EGCL / Tel: 01406 - 540330 / Email: secretary@fenlandairfield.co.uk



MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD 19 MARCH 2020

Present:	James Baldwyn, Paul Brian, Neil Buck, Claire Buckley, Carl Husain, John Parker, Peter Watson, Martin Williams.		
Not Present:	Tim James (self isolating), Robin Hoile	Ex Officio:	Kerry Allen (Runways). Steve Brown (CFI, FFS)
Others in Attendance:	Braden Connolly, Lisa Brian		

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2020

Meeting Convened 7pm

The FAC Committee Chairman attempted to start the FAC Committee, but was interrupted by Steve Brown who cited the Aerodrome Manual, Safety Organisation, Section 3.2 insisting he was now chairing the Safety Management Systems Committee Meeting.

“As part of the aerodrome’s Safety Management Systems (SMS), a Safety Committee convenes monthly, immediately preceding the FAC Committee meeting. It is chaired by the CFI with Accountable Manager oversight...”

Neither the Accountable Manager (David Beale) nor the Safety Manager (Tim James) were present at the meeting.

Steve alleged that he was being prevented from holding a SMS Committee meeting by the FAC Chairman after the FAC Chairman read out Club Rule 5.8:

“The Committee shall conduct its business to a written agenda as approved by the Chairman. All written and verbal communications at a committee meeting must be made through the Chair.”

During this time, there was heated discussion and disagreement. This continued with comments that Steve was deliberately attempting to ‘hijack’ the meeting. This was denied by Steve.

The Secretary suggested that the SMS Committee proceeded, but said that the Committee might wish to decide:

The Committee by majority voted to proceed with the FAC Committee meeting.

Steve Brown further insisted that the [FAC] Committee Meeting cannot convene until the CFI had the Safety Meeting.

Paul Brian stated that the safety of the airfield is being compromised.

In response, Carl Husain said that safety here has been used as a political football; that is what is compromising safety he said. He went on to say that authority... is dependent on respect and... in using this, like this, you've lost respect; and with no respect you have no authority.

The Secretary added that since the new committee was formed in August [2019] the Committee has never had the proceedings whereby there would be a SMS Committee prior to the FAC committee; that she also did not agree with Steve's style of presentation... it's become confrontational and this is where our communication is breaking down, she said. She went on to ask Steve if he would agree to have his meeting placed somewhere else on the agenda; would Steve have an objection. Steve objected to this saying it did not comply with the Aerodrome Manual [Section 3.2].

The Secretary went on to ask Steve why he didn't object in August; this is the first time he had objected she said. She added that no emails were received to request a SMS Meeting be placed on the agenda; this was not a courteous way of working she said.

Both Steve Brown and Paul Brian dismissed this saying this was malicious.

Peter Watson said as Chairman of this Committee, he would like to talk about Covid 19 and this club. He further added that he had not convened the SMS Meeting. In response, Steve Brown said we could have a safety meeting now and that the Corona Virus could be item one on the safety meeting asking Peter if he thought that was a good compromise.

Peter outlined the actions to be considered. Neil Buck read out guidance published by the LAA on this topic [Covid19].

Following the reading of the LAA guidelines by Neil, Peter asked the Committee if they were in favour that the airfield stays open. This was agreed.

Peter then spoke about members and visitors coming into the Clubhouse and what precautions the club should be taking. Kerry will provide sanitisers he said. An email will be sent to all members informing them of the arrangements.

Peter Watson said that the Corona Virus had put people temporarily out of work and that financially they were 'in a bad place'. He suggested to the Committee that any person who couldn't pay their membership subscriptions or their hangarage they let the Membership Secretary know that they will pay later – however long it takes so they are not under more pressure he said.

The Secretary confirmed she had already been in contact with the Membership Secretary concerning this. A question was raised concerning insurances. Peter confirmed insurances were in place and unaffected.

The Chairman asked the Committee if they were in favour of members who have financial difficulty they would be allowed to pay later. This was agreed.

James Baldwin (Events Manager) asked whether he should postpone events for March, April and May, with June onwards to be reviewed; Wings & Wheels is unaffected until we have more clarity on the future. This was agreed.

Peter announced this section concluded.

There followed a series of disagreements and arguments over a significant period of time with Steve Brown challenging the authority of the Accountable Manager David Beale and challenging the validity of a NOTAM published on the 7 March 2020 closing the aerodrome to all traffic.

Peter Watson adjourned the meeting prematurely at approximately 8.25pm

SignedPeter Watson..... **Date**6th May 2020.....

FAC Chairman