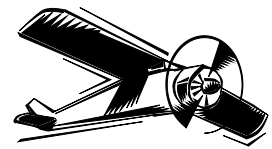


FENLAND AERO CLUB – Management Team

Fenland Airfield, Jekils Bank, Holbeach St Johns Spalding, PE12 8RQ
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB MANAGEMENT TEAM

Present:	Jeff Helm (JH), Alan Plummer (AP), David Petters (DP), Dave Capon (DC)
Others in Attendance:	None

THURSDAY, 8 APRIL 2021

Video Conference Meeting Convened 17:30

1) APOLOGIES: None

2) INTRODUCTION

A special meeting was convened primarily to discuss a series of emails received from Adrian Willis of the British Aviation Academy.

3) BRITISH AVIATION ACADEMY

Adrian Willis wrote to the management team March 28 to discuss commencement of training at Fenland. A series of email exchanges ensued concluding with JH stating that without a formal vote by the members at the next AGM, even if court ruled the licence was valid then the members would still vote at the AGM but on terminating the licence. The management team agreed to seek legal advice as part of the ongoing investigations over the BAA licence. **Action DP to contact our solicitors.**

4) FAC CLUB RULES

DP presented a number of suggested rule changes:

- a) Rule 2.2e4 remove “subject to approval (which may be reviewed at any time) by the Committee”. Reason: this rule was amended 21 June 2018, honorary members have always been nominated and approved by the members at an AGM. Rule 2.8 and 2.9 adequately deal with disciplinary process. **Approved.**
- b) Rule 4.6 add “Once the requisite numbers are obtained, the Membership Secretary has unilateral authority and will distribute the proposed EGM notice to all members without delay and

without hindrance from any committee or club member.” Reason: to prevent a repeat of the obstruction and intimidation of the Membership Secretary and to add clarity that the committee cannot suppress an EGM if called for by the members. **Approved.**

c) Rule 5.1 Fenland Aero Club (Licencing) Ltd. A discussion followed on ways to tie the Aero Club and the Limited company together to avoid a situation where the Limited company is orphaned from the committee. JH suggested that the Managing Director of the Limited company should always be the Chairman, but we need to consider the two shareholders. It was agreed to defer this discussion and rule change until the next meeting.

d) Rule 5.5 add "Committee members shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election, providing said committee member has not been removed from office at an EGM. That member shall not be eligible to stand again as a committee member." A discussion followed. JH said that clarity should also be provided on the definition of two full consecutive years and whether a member wishing to renew on May 2 should be allowed to, or forced to re-join as a new member with a pro rata payment. It was agreed to revise and propose this rule change to the members at the next AGM, which will be on June 23, 2021 according to rule 4.2.

e) Annex C to be added to the end of the club rules to clarify the definition of serious misconduct. This can be referenced in future licences.

“Annex C Serious Misconduct

C.1. It is paramount that all members and licensees treat each other with respect and consideration when interacting within the confines of The Club, especially in front of members of the public.

C.2. Minor disagreements such as a difference of opinion is not considered serious misconduct in the Club rules.

C.3. Actions that will be considered serious misconduct in the Club rules are:

a) Abusive, threatening or insulting behaviour (persistent in minor cases) toward another person or business

b) Any criminal act, theft or assault

c) Knowingly acting as Pilot in Command without a current licence, medical and/or insurance.

c) Persistently failing to carry out the requirements of any licence or agreement without reasonable cause.

This is not an exhaustive list and is merely an aid to any future dispute. The conduct MUST be serious, as considered by any reasonable person.”

Approved.

5) PRESIDENT

DP had concluded an investigation and compiled a report into the actions of the President and proposed actioning rule 4.8c. Discussion followed. AP asked if the President was simply trying to defuse the tension over the EGM. DP replied that the discussions with the committee including the EGM and references to a flying school coup, the evidence does not indicate a neutral party or non executive function. DP cited some extracts from his report including the President chairing the first committee meeting, the unconstitutional poll regarding the 2020 AGM cancellation and the lack of co-operation or interaction with the management team as compared with almost weekly contact with the previous committee. AP asked to look back at previous AGMs which haven't always followed the rules to the letter and asked whether minor administrative breaches is enough to warrant actioning rule 4.8c. DP replied the rule breaches were not minor. JH asked whether the members would want this, who would take over as President and whether the role of President has a function in a modern world. DP replied we owe it to the members to follow through and the evidence in his report is very clear that power was abused. MH was concerned that the President had not reached out to the management team and therefore no desire to take the club forward and fulfil the role, leading to no faith in the President of the Aero Club. JH asked if it should be the members decision to remove the President. DP replied that we were elected to sort this out and the investigation lays down very clearly why rule 4.8c should be enacted, it is the best decision for the club. DC read out an old email from the President stating the members are entitled to an EGM but he cannot sanction a virtual EGM, and this could be considered as an attempt to undermine the EGM by recognising it's legitimacy but not supporting it. DP stated that no one was contacted by the President to understand how the EGM would be carried out. AP asked if the club was brought into dispute. DP replied that many other clubs know what happened at Fenland. MH thanked DP for putting the time in to collate all the evidence. JH asked for a formal vote by the management team to enact rule 4.8c and remove the President, there were 4 votes for and 1 vote against. **Action JH to write to the President.**

Following on from 4.8c, DP suggested in the interim period without a President, Rob Rowley would be willing to hear any club appeals. As a magistrate he is professionally impartial, not affiliated with the flying school and an associate member of the club. **Approved.**

6) FLYING SCHOOL

DP proposed to return all ex-officio members to the committee and to reinstate Steve Brown as an ex-officio member. JH stated that as ex-officio members, neither Kerry or Steve have any voting rights at committee meetings. **Approved.**

DP asked if Fenland Flying school could be issued a further licence subject to ratification/members approval at the AGM. AP stated that we can't write a licence at the AGM and therefore we must prepare something in advance. JH asked if the licence needed a ratification clause, DP replied the members can vote for or against the licence as per the termination clauses. The licence commencement date would be the date of the AGM. **Approved.**

JH asked about the helicopter instructor and whether members could approve a licence at the next AGM. The landlords are progressing the new hangars and expect them to be ready in 2 months. DP replied in addition to member consent we need formal consent from the landlords, references and due diligence. **Action DP to contact the helicopter instructor.**

The meeting closed at 19:25.

Next meeting: Monday April 19, 2021 at 17:30.