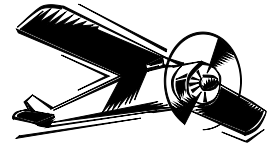


FENLAND AERO CLUB

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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB AGM

WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021

Video Conference Meeting Convened 7.30pm

Present:

Ade Thomas	David Thomas	Liam Leys	Pippa Blaylock
Adrian Willis	Dino Wright	Linda Edwards	Rob Rowley
Alun Williams	Edmund Comber	Lisa Brian	Robert Fray
Annie Walton	Fiona Carter	Marcus Hawkins	Robert Laming
Barrie Colvin	Fiona West	Margaret Duhig	Rynardt Spies
Bill Fisher	Fred Hahn	Martin Brooks	Simon Cooke
Braden Connolly	Gavin Cole	Martin Buckley	Stephen Dawson
Carole Evans	Gordon Clouting	Mary Payne	Steve Brown
Charles Acland	Graham Kiddy	Michael Humphrey	Steve Burnside
Chris Rees	Gregory Pelling	Michael Hunt	Steve Culpin
Clive Williams (to 2115)	Guillaume D'hoore	Mick Lowis	Steve Pearson
Colin Albone	James Baldwyn	Murray Spittal	Stu Lambert
Craig Fleming	Jeff Helm	Neil Grantham	Stuart Belding
Crosby Johnson	Jim Blaylock	Neville Stamford	Ted Smeeth
Daryl Hill	John Higgins	Nicholas Bick	Tim Dighton
Dave Capon	John Jennings	Oliver Wheeldon	Tim Leader
Dave Westall	John Petters	Patrick Duhig	Tim Wilshire
David Murfitt	John Silvester	Paul Brian	Todd Cleaver
David Newman	John Simpson	Paul Needham	Tony Short
David Parfrey	Joseph Connolly	Pete Suckow	Wayne Precious
David Parkinson	Joshua Brown	Peter Begley	Wendy Hinchcliffe
David Petters	Keith Wilson	Peter Begley Snr	Zbigniew Krasa
David Russell	Kerry Allen	Phil Parsons	

Electronic voting window 1 – 30 June 2021 22:00 to 03 July 2021 23:59

1) APOLOGIES: Alan Plummer, Ray Nicholson

2) INTRODUCTION

David Petters opened the meeting, welcomed the members and ran through the agenda. Jeff Helm ran through the electronic voting process, this is using a third party website and each member will be emailed a unique code. It is a secret ballot, there is no manual counting, and results will be visible to all through the third party website.

3) REPORTS

What's happened since the AGM?

David Petters explained to the members what has happened since the EGM. The previous committee was stood down and the Fenland Flying School licence extended to this AGM. In addition to running the airfield on a day to day basis, the last 18 months were investigated to find out what went wrong. This investigation took 5 months and the findings (a 136 page report) was released to members in May. There were multiple breaches of the constitution including elections, the NOTAM incident in March and 2.9 disciplinaries which resulted in a charge of serious misconduct against Steve Brown. This charge was reversed after numerous members wrote to the committee. No AGM was held in 2020, an online AGM was dismissed and the Fenland Flying School licence was not renewed, instead a second flying school was signed up without members knowledge leading to an EGM. The constitution/club rules must be followed for our Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status and club indemnity insurance to be valid. The club was advised to distance itself from the actions of the previous committee leading to disciplinary procedures. This was not the best thing to move the club forwards but was a necessary step to ensure individual members are not liable should we end up in court. Disciplinary procedures have now been completed and necessary sanctions issued. As a management team we have done our very best to deal with the situation. The only other change made was to revert the club rules to the pre 2019 AGM.

Secretary report

Jeff Helm presented the secretary report. The club currently has 210 members comprising of 121 flying members, 37 associate members, 42 social members, 6 life members and 4 honorary members. Compared with 2019 we had 186 members so memberships are up 13%. Both social members and associated members are lower than previous years (due to covid) but flying members are up 21% since 2019. 83% of members renewed in 2021 which is on-par/higher than a normal year, not the 50% renewal rate that has been circulated by unofficial sources. Membership income for the year currently stands at 28k which is really good and could lead to the highest membership income in the past decade. This is due to 17 new flying members since April, mostly students. This is the first year I can remember that the number of flying members is higher at the AGM than the previous end of year. Finally thanks to Mary Payne who resigned as membership secretary after many years of service.

Finance report

Jeff Helm presented the finance report by screen sharing the 2020/2021 accounts previously distributed to members. Our main source of income is from fuel, membership and hangarage. Our total income is 162k compared with 205k in 2020 and 236k in 2019. Fuel sales income is 85k compared with 116k in 2020 and 149k in 2019. The split of fuel sales is 46% to non-members, 31% to members and 23% to the flying school (down due to Covid closure). Membership was down on the previous year at 24k. There was no Wings and Wheels event in 2020, so very little event income. Unfortunately we still have to pay the bills. The expenses are self-explanatory and there were no unusual purchases. Rent has increased to nearly 50k due to the club taking on Bay 8 and the Nissen hangar. We had full rate relief due to Covid. Cleaning costs are high to the Covid requirements for the restaurant and IER. This could have left the club with a 10k loss but we received Covid support grants of 39.5k. Of the grants received, 9.5k was defrayed to Fenland Flying School and 9.5k was defrayed to Runways Restaurant. This was at the request of the South Holland Council *"In circumstances as yours where a business isn't registered to pay business rates because the*

property occupied is included in the main assessment the expectation is that the liable person(s) eligible for the grant would share a percentage of the grant received with those who have been advised that they are ineligible to receive a grant". Neither Fenland Flying School nor Runways Restaurant were entitled to any other grants and this defrayment does not affect the club's CASC status. The team agreed to carry a 10k profit into the next financial year due to the uncertainty of Covid, the remainder was equally split between the 2 businesses. We did speak to the Valuation Office to see if both businesses could be separated in future to pay their own rates, but the response was no. The balance sheet shows £105,919 cash in the bank and club capital of £128,961.

Operations report

Jeff Helm presented the operations report. Hangars have remained consistently full through the year and the landlords are currently building more to meet demand. Thanks to Mick Hammerton, Mike Faulkner and Kerry's family for general airfield maintenance. We do all need to work together to keep the airfield tidy, some sprucing up throughout the summer is needed. Thanks to the IER crew and to Dave Westall as IER manager. To quote Dave *"I sourced more fire kit including new helmets. The caravan has been transformed into a crew room / classroom with kit locker & duty desk. Respiratory protection has been upgraded to personal reusable face coverings. The First Aid kit has been upgraded with pulse oximeters, digital thermometer, Ambubags & a spinal board with head blocks. A battery operated reciprocating saw has given us a greater level of rescue ability."* More IER volunteers are needed, if you can give one day a month please get in touch. It is a shame that we have 120 flying members and yet only 4 flying members are on the IER rota. Special thanks to Lee Dickson for finding an engineer to fix the fire truck last Saturday night. Cromer has recently been added as a reciprocal airfield for flying members, members will be emailed the details. Finally a thank you for everyone not already thanked who volunteer their time for the airfield. From the ATC guys (Ray, Simon, Liam, Neville) to the landlords who are putting up new hangars for us. Remember without the members the club would cease to exist.

Fenland Flying School report

Lisa Brian presented The Fenland Flying School report. "As many of you will know, Steve took over the school when Humphrey was leaving, as no-one else wanted to run a school at the airfield. Steve's motive was then, and is still now, to run the school for the love of aviation, and our vocation is to bring flying to as many people as possible, at the cheapest possible cost. Not only are completely new people, of all ages, coming into the school wanting to learn to fly, but we have had a surprising number of lapsed pilots wanting to get back into flying just lately. Happily, for the club and the school, Fenland is their airfield of choice and often not because we are their nearest airfield, so something is attracting them. The figures for memberships, solos, licence issues and renewals all bear out the fact that we must be doing something right? Despite the difficult couple of years due to Covid, we currently have the highest number of students we have ever had, 32 actively learning to fly, and another 20 people hiring. And daily we are getting phone calls from more! Since April alone we have introduced 62 people to the joys of flying, 11 of which have signed up for lessons! As well as new members, we are proud to report the successes of many current members' achievements: We have seen 9 students become pilots - well done to Linda, Tony, Amy, Kevin, Keith, Ted, Ryan, Jordan and Rynardt. 8 students are well on their way to gaining their licence having achieved their First Solo, well done to Steve, Graham, Nathan, George, Peter, Alfie, Ziggy and James. 1 member has achieved his IMC rating - well done Braden. 8 new Tail Wheel pilots, thanks to David and his lovely Chipmunk. Well done to Dan, Oliver, Robin, Jeff, Barrie, Rob, Pip and Rachel. Also a total of 41 pilots have either renewed

or revalidated their rating. Also new during the last 2 years, for the enjoyment of all club members, is the Flight Simulator, thanks to Cloud Avionics. Rynardt tirelessly keeps it in tip top conditions, upgrading software and ironing out glitches at the drop of a hat so it's always ready for use. Future plans are to have a wrap-around screen and enclosed cockpit and to get it certified by the CAA so it can be used towards flight training hours. So far it has been enjoyed by over 30 members, either to enhance their training, or just for fun. This year, there are many people to thank, too many to name, but they know who they are! But special thanks as always goes to Ray and the team for the excellent Radio service, Kerry and her team for keeping us in sausage, chips and paninis, the IER team, and Mick for many the odd jobs he's done around the airfield to help and help us. We love being an integral part of the club and have no desires to 'takeover the club', but only want to see a happy and vibrant club and airfield that seems to be the envy of the aviation world."

Runways Restaurant

David Petters read out a letter from Kerry and Julie. "We would just like to make you all aware that the current state of affairs is affecting us as well. We have felt extremely uncomfortable over the past few weeks when we have heard the discussions taking place in the restaurant. The grant money we received from Fenland was the only means of income we had which enabled us to stay open. As you know, the seating capacity was reduced by 50% and prior to that the take away service was only viable when the weather was good. No matter how hungry and thirsty you are, no one wants to sit outside in the rain. To then hear people stating that the grants should be claimed back was demoralising to say the least. It was incredibly upsetting to hear these comments, especially as some of the participants had never been seen by us before, so they were hardly people who supported us by their patronage. Then to read the comments by Adrian Willis that "he knew" we were entitled to our own grants, was the final straw. Believe me, we tried... The response from the council was to say that an allowance for our business and that of FFS had been taken into consideration in the amount award to Fenland. The council suggested that we ask Fenland for help. If anyone would like to view this email from the council, please feel free to ask. The past 15 months have been incredibly hard and certainly something we never expected to experience. We would just like to try and get back to some sort of normality. Just in case anyone was thinking we were claiming any other benefits, let me just make this clear. The only member of staff who received furlough was Julie and that was the first lockdown only. She would not claim it for the second and subsequent lockdowns as she thought the business would have to close and she did not think that furlough in these circumstances was correct. This information can be confirmed by our accountant if anyone has any doubts about our honesty and integrity."

4) QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS ABOUT THE REPORTS

Todd Cleaver asked whether the cancellation of the BAA licence should have been voted on by the members in the same way that the signing of the BAA licence should. David Petters talked through the timeline of the BAA licence and stated the licence was signed after the call for the EGM by an unelected committee and therefore was not a valid licence. Adrian Willis was advised that if he wished to come to Fenland we will go through the process properly but no response as yet although the offer is still open. Todd asked if the signed BAA licence is legally valid. Adrian Willis replied that he was fully acquainted with the due diligence process, his references were taken up before meeting the committee and he gave a Zoom presentation to the entire committee and this was circulated to the members. His lawyers said that his licence was a fully legal contract. David said there was no fault on

Adrian's part, the members were not consulted and the ex-committee were not representative of the club. Todd asked whether the actions by the management team have made the situation worse? David replied no, we have remained within the constitution throughout.

Bill Fisher stated Mrs Wright wrote to the club saying they could not renew the Fenland Flying School licence and do FFS have a licence at the moment? David replied FAC operate on a tenancy agreement with the Wrights, the lease agreement does state any new licensee needs permission from the landlords along with two references. The lease does not provide for rescinding consent when given, as example a business operating at Fenland for 20 years would have only FAC to ask for references every 5 years and makes no sense. For any new flying school, landlord consent would be required. The lease also states quiet enjoyment so no interference from the landlords aside from access and inspections, the landlords cannot dictate to the club. Dino Wright said as landlords they disagree and have been to three lawyers and have been advised that landlords permission is required for a new licence. If the licensee causes trouble, you don't need the approval of the landlords for a second licence? David replied correct, once consent is given the club then grant or maintain the licence from that point. Dino said the club's solicitors said permission was required. David replied that all advice falls back on quiet enjoyment from the tenancy act, if you rent your house out the landlord has no say in who they like or not visiting. As a members club, it is down to the members. Dino stated if a licence is issued, there is a high risk of shutting the airfield down as the insurance won't be valid. David replied the lease has been holding over for 14 years and we have numerous rights as a tenant and it would take a long time and cost to take the airfield back.

Edmund Comber asked how can a process be fair when the accuser, investigator, judge, jury and sentencer are all the same people; members with 30 years of service to club had no forum to allow them to respond to the membership. David replied we are operating within the constitution and rule 2.9 lays down the procedure. Edmund asked was it fair and morally right? David replied the members did have a forum to respond, all but one declined. An appeals process exists but as the President was on the same charges in the light of fairness, a magistrate was chosen based on his professional ability to be impartial. Edmund said the report produced was one sided, David said this wasn't the case and the majority of the report is extracts of emails and minutes.

Fiona Carter introduced herself as ex-committee. To hear of the EGM and the committee sabotaged is not on. In the past anyone employed by the flying school was not allowed on the committee. Committee members volunteer their time for free and this is a club. Has the flying school licence been amended since Lee Haunch? David replied aside from one year the committee was elected by ballot or a motion to accept everyone. The ex-committee even discussed their lack of election. Fiona says we need to go back pre-2010. Jeff Helm responded we have no records prior to 2010 since we moved to an electronic filing system. David says that the committee needs to be 5 to 11 members, it does not mean you need 11 members. An election is still required under the constitution. Less than 5 members, FAC run a management team. Fiona says there has always been at least 5 committee members until last year. Dino asked rule 5.6 states that anyone with a commercial interest is not allowed on the committee and this affects Paul Brian and David Petters. David replied he doesn't take students from FFS, he pays FFS to use their DTO. Only the proprietors cannot be voted onto the committee but can attend as ex-officio and this does not extend to say a waiter or waitress in the restaurant. Fiona repeated that flying instructors have never been on the

committee in the past. Tim Leader interjected saying that when you have a well funded landlord and when litigation could cost a great deal of money, before taking anything forward we should get legal advice so that all members can see the legal basis for their decision. The committee may be right or wrong, personally Fenland Flying School are fantastic but we should see the advice in black and white that we are all relying on. Tim requested that the club take formal legal advice on the implications of extending FFS licence and not honouring the licence entered into by the former committee with the aerobatics flying school before making final decisions on these matters. Action to be taken to the next committee.

Fred Hahn asked if Dino and the management team would get together to try and resolve the problem. If we talk to solicitors they will tell us anything we want and cost a lot of money. There seems to be a personality clash. Dino replied that since the management team took over, there has been very little correspondence with the landlords and they are pro Fenland Flying School. Someone said that was not the case. Dino said the landlords had sent many letters to the management team with no response. David Petters replied that was not the case, he and Dave Capon had met the landlords numerous times. Several proposals were put forward and he had had several long telephone calls with the landlords. Fred asked again if we can get together in the future to discuss. Dino said there are options and solutions but is disappointed about what has happened to some of our long term members. White Fen Farm was nothing a few years ago and now has expanded, all their members have come from Fenland. Maybe the airfield should be run a completely different way and scrap committees? Fred replied the management team are an interim measure until the next election, and the election is a democratic vote. Dino said Fenland Flying School members were obliged to vote for them and many have no concern for the club. Fiona Carter asked what the difference is between the current flying school licence and the licence that Lee Haunch used to have. Jeff Helm replied we don't have any licences pre 2010. Fiona stated the previous licence used to have exclusivity rights for flight training.

Linda Edwards thanked the management team for picking up the pieces and involving the members. The club has to move forwards and things have been done properly. Why is she still being bombarded by emails from the ex-President if they haven't been able to have their say? Hopefully members will see the whole picture.

Gavin Cole asked how can we have a fair election if numerous ex-committee members are not allowed to attend. Do we really want to risk the entire airfield closing over a flying school. There are lots of flying schools, get another one. Why should everyone suffer?

Braden Connelly stated that it's a great disservice not to assume any patrons of a business have an independent mind. His personal opinion of the flying school does not affect how he is treated for aircraft hire. There were problems with both the ex-committee and management team and actions were disproportionate. Instead of looking back and dwelling on the past, let's look to the future and elect the people you want to take the club forwards. We need to look at reconciliation and both the club and the landlords should be sympathetic to each other. Braden asked the flying school whether the way he votes will affect his ability to hire. Lisa replied of course not and Steve replied he won't know how you voted because it's a secret vote, everyone will vote as their conscience dictates.

Steve Brown asked Dino what their issue with the flying school was? Dino replied that Steve approached Mrs Wright and told her that he was going to take control of the airfield. Lisa

replied this was a joke. Paul Brian said the flying school have been kept completely out of the loop from the management team, we are there just keeping our head down teaching people to fly. We have normal jobs and have to defend ourselves against ridiculous rumours. The school is obligated by the aero club to perform various duties and when flight safety issues are seen, you might hear from a flying instructor. None of the rumours are true. If there is any evidence of any wrong doing within the club rules or aero club obligations, then please make them known. We do our jobs for the enjoyment of flying. Just because we work at the flying school doesn't mean we don't love the club.

David Petters wrapped up by saying we are all here because we love flying. He hopes the landlords and the new committee can get together and work past history and personal differences. Bill Fisher asked Dino whether his problem with the flying was with the organisation or the people within the organisation. Dino asked when the flying school licence terminates. David replied it doesn't terminate. Dino then asked so why was it extended? David replied a negotiated licence is always better than a rolling licence.

5) EXTENDING THE FENLAND FLYING SCHOOL LICENCE

Dave Capon said that all the points in his report had been covered by the discussion in the previous section.

(minuted out of sequence) Later on in the meeting James Baldwin asked for clarification on this agenda item and asked Dave Capon to go through it. Dave said he would read out a report that he had written. "At the EGM back in November the members agreed to extend the FFS licence until the AGM by a 62% to 35% majority vote. The Management Team, in accordance with item 3 of the EGM Agenda, are bound by the fact that a decision by members shall be taken on the grant of a further extension to its current licence. It is the opinion of the Management Team that FFS Licence (within the terms of its existing format) be renewed for a further 5 years. Historically the renewal procedure has been carried out by the existing committee, without redress to the Landlords and we agree with this precedent. The licence is "renewable" and NOT a "new" licence and therefore the management team have concurred with the previous committee decisions that no references or landlord permission are required. Notwithstanding this fact, at the end of last year, prior to lock down, myself and David Petters had several meetings with the landlords in order to try and resolve or alleviate any concerns that they perceived. Although we considered that initially the talks were productive, it soon became evident that any progress we made was being undermined by the interference of outside forces, to the extent that any further discussions became untenable. We therefore decided to revert to the default option. FFS references were accepted and consent granted by the Landlords in 2016 and thereby, in our opinion, we have fulfilled the requirements of our lease. We are also aware of a letter being circulated from the Landlords among certain members, and it is incumbent upon us to remind them that within the terms of the Lease, and by law, that under Section 1(3) of the Landlord and Tenants Act 1988, that any refusal of 'consent' by the Landlord has to be reasonable, it cannot be withheld based on some perceived slight. So by refusing consent, and thereby ending someones livelihood, we think will not be looked upon favourably in a court of law. So the Landlords threats to terminate a lease unless the CFI is removed is tantamount to Coercion or even blackmail. In addition the Management Team assert that;

1. FFS have fulfilled ALL their obligations within the terms of the licence.
2. Have provided a first class professional service in respect of pilot training and safety.

3. Carried out services on behalf of FAC (which would otherwise cost the club far in excess of the existing FFS agreement).

4. Continues to introduce many new pilots to FAC along with Flying membership fees.

5. Provides a huge cost benefit to the club and historically up to 40% of all fuel sales.

We have, until now, decided not to respond to the petty gossip, hearsay and innuendo currently being disseminated by the ex-president and others. In response we would like to point out to the members that in the spirit of reconciliation we invited the then President to engage in discussions with the newly elected management team earlier in the year, however we were met with accusations that we were despots and not legitimate. He has conveniently ignored the will of the majority of members at the EGM to remove the old committee, a meeting by the way attended by in excess of 200 members and conducted in an orderly and coherent manner, in total contrast of the shambolic 2019 AGM attended by about 45 members in total. The ex President has not only refused to engage with the Management Team but instigated a concerted campaign to undermine our best efforts. As regards to his accusation of a declining membership, as the secretary has already indicated the opposite is in fact true. In response to the accusations of the management team engaging in a witch hunt and the insistence that we should exonerate all wrongdoers I would like to avail and remind members of some facts. We all completed a membership application upon joining FAC. The applicant is required to sign the form and in that signature box it clearly states, and I quote "In signing I agree with & will abide by FAC club rules and safety procedures" End of Quote. I took that oath seriously. It is not an optional requirement, it is compulsory and incumbent on all members to comply. In addition the club rules distinctly define the consequences of non compliance and indeed sets out the terms and sanctions available. It is there to protect all members from abuse of power and more importantly affords protection under the sanctity of law in the case of any legal action. By condoning wrong doing without consequences is tantamount to anarchy because it gives the perpetrator free will to do whatever they like because there is no fear of punishment or retribution. Our liability insurance protection under section 6.14 of the club rules will no longer be valid if members omit to abide by the constitution. So as some members have suggested, by espousing such tropes as, lets forgive and forget, move on, let bygones be bygones, you will be forgoing ALL protections provided by the constitution of the club and consequently be vicariously and personally liable for any financial punishments imposed by a court of law in the event of any legal action. I for one will not be a member of a club that does not impose the fundamental principle of law. The Management Team would rather uphold the constitution of the club, abide by the rules and enforce them where appropriate, follow the law in respect of licences as well as the lease clauses that exist at FAC. The Management Team would also like to remind the members and the Landlords that we have a lease for the Aero Club property and as such are accorded protection under the Landlords and Tenants Act 1954, in addition within our lease under section 6.1 headed 'Quiet enjoyment' it affords us and I quote "to permit the Tenant peaceably and quietly to hold and enjoy the Premises without interruption or disturbance from or by the landlord". We have a moral imperative to uphold the principle of what is right and lawful and not be guided by personal animosities. This is a club that is run under the principles of democracy and will not be influenced by threats, intimidation or bullying. That is why we will be voting for FFS licence to be renewed and we encourage fellow members to vote 'Yes'."

Proposal: "Fenland Flying School licence to be extended a further 5 years, in accordance with the terms of the license"

Results of electronic voting: YES 84 (62%), NO 52 (38%), ABSTAIN 6.

Proposal carried.

6) PROPOSALS FROM THE MEMBERS

Gavin Cole proposed reconciliation, the members that have been ousted to be reinstated. David Petters read the wording from the briefing pack "In the spirit of reconciliation all members subjected to disciplinary action since the AGM of 2019 should be exonerated and reinstated.". Jeff Helm asked Gavin to clarify what he meant by reinstated. Gavin replied that Claire Buckley was no longer allowed to fly, others have been suspended and it was for members to make their own mind up whether there was an agenda. David Petters asked if Gavin condoned the breaking of rules especially if it could lead to a financial loss, Gavin replied yes rules are meant to be broken. Todd Cleaver stated that those members had to be distanced from the club, legacy stuff needs to be sorted out and at this moment in time it's safest to keep them out. Dave Capon stated it's all in the rules. Gavin said the actions against the ex-committee just seemed very unfair. Liam Leys stated there are two sides, the previous committee could still take action against the members as the liability insurance does not fully cover us for management team actions. David Petters replied the liability of management team would be indemnified because the constitution has been followed. Liam asked if the members were still liable for the actions of the ex-committee, David replied that was the case. Liam asked if those members came back, would the impact affect our indemnity? David replied that it is a member's club, if the members want it the members can have it. However it could be 2 or 3 years down the line when we are sued and accepting them back into the club could reverse the entire insurance policy.

Proposal: "In the spirit of reconciliation all members subjected to disciplinary action since the AGM of 2019 should be exonerated and reinstated."

Results of electronic voting: YES 57 (46%), NO 68 (54%), ABSTAIN 17.

Proposal not carried.

David Petters proposed that given the issues we had with Covid in 2020, as many members didn't renew their membership until later in the year, under rule 3.9 they would be deemed to resign and not serve their 2 years. Therefore the proposal to have a more representative committee is "A member renewal in 2020 will be deemed to be a full year if the renewal was paid by August 1, 2020.". Jeff Helm added that only 50% of members renewed by May 1, 2020.

Proposal: "A member renewal in 2020 will be deemed to be a full year if the renewal was paid by August 1, 2020."

Results of electronic voting: YES 103 (79%), NO 28 (21%), ABSTAIN 11.

Proposal carried.

Bill Fisher asked what happened to the new fire truck proposal, Jeff Helm replied the proposal had been withdrawn.

7) RENEWAL OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

David Petters asked if there were any objections to the renewal of existing honorary memberships, currently Steve Brown (Chief Flying Instructor), Paul Brian (Flying Instructor), Humphrey Penney (E-Plane Engineering) and Kerry Allen (Runways Restaurant). Bill Fisher stated that Humphrey had sold his interest to Rex Ford and should Humphrey be replaced. Jeff Helm replied we weren't aware the engineering building was sold. Fred Hahn stated

that he believed Humphrey sub-lets the building to Rex Ford. There were no objections to renewing the existing honorary members and therefore this proposal was carried.

8) PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Additions are highlighted and in bold. Deletions are struck through and in bold.

1 Replace rule 2.9 proposed by David Petters

~~If a member committing a breach of the Club rules or the rules contained in the Fenland Aerodrome Manual, Daily Operations Manual or of any other regulation or by statutory law promulgated by the Club or being charged with conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is detrimental to the character and interest of the Club, rendering it desirable that the member should be cautioned, suspended or cease to be a member of the Club. That member shall be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee, at which time the member shall be given a reasonable opportunity to provide an explanation verbally or may elect to provide the necessary details in writing. One supporting associate who may not necessarily be a Club member may accompany the member. A member who feels that his case has not been fairly dealt with following this procedure, may in the last instance, appeal in writing to the Club President. Should the Committee consider the charge is sustained, the member may be cautioned, suspended, expelled or required to resign his membership as the committee thinks fit.~~

The Committee shall have the power to caution, suspend or exclude any member for contravention of this Constitution, documented rules or published codes of conduct that may exist at that time, or being charged with conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is detrimental to the character and interest of the Club, rendering it desirable that the member should be cautioned, suspended or cease to be a member of the Club. In exercising these powers the Committee shall adhere to the Club's disciplinary procedures. Appeal against caution, suspension or removal may be made to the members:

(a) Disciplinary Procedure:

Any member facing disciplinary procedures under Rule 2.9, shall be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee, at which time the member shall be given a reasonable opportunity to provide an explanation verbally or may elect to provide the necessary details in writing. One supporting associate, who may not necessarily be a Club member, may accompany the member.

(b) The Committee will deliberate upon the evidence produced and may decide to either exonerate, caution, suspend or permanently expel the member.

(c) Appeal:

A member has the right to appeal against a decision by the Committee, in writing, to the members of the Club, via the Club Secretary, who MUST forward the request for appeal. Alternatively, an agreed arbitrator may be appointed between the member and the Committee.

Rationale from proposer: In order to apply with CASA guidelines, the Committee must have a method of regulating the membership in the event of misbehaviour by members or officers of the Club. An appeals process must be in place to ensure fairness. Ideally this

should be a decision for the members, but in the case of matters of a sensitive or personal nature, where the accused member does not wish to make it public, an arbitrator may be appointed. This arbitrator must be agreed by both parties to ensure a fair appeal.

Results of electronic voting: YES 91 (70%), NO 39 (30%), ABSTAIN 12.
Proposal carried.

2 Amend rule 4.1 proposed by David Petters

All Club Rules may be amended at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) / Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) by two thirds of the votes cast. Minor changes may be made by the Committee as required (which may be reversed or further amended by an AGM/EGM) but not so as to jeopardize the Club's status as a Community Amateur Sports Club, its objectives or constitution. **The Committee may introduce new rules, or amend the Club Rules and Fenland Aerodrome and Daily Operations Manuals, as considered necessary, subject to ratification by the membership before implementation.**

Rationale from proposer: Cover the removal of 9.1 and regularise the Constitution.

Results of electronic voting: YES 93 (70%), NO 40 (30%), ABSTAIN 9.
Proposal carried.

3 Amend rule 4.2 proposed by David Petters

The AGM shall be held on the last Wednesday in June or held not more than fourteen months following the previous AGM. The committee shall arrange a General Meeting (GM) whenever and as often as it shall deem to be necessary to do so. Notice of the AGM shall be displayed on the Club notice board not less than fourteen days and not more than twenty-eight days prior to the date of the proposed meeting. Five percent of registered. Club members shall be deemed to form a quorum. If less than that number of members is present, the meeting shall be adjourned for seven days and irrespective of the number of members present when the meeting resumes, it shall be deemed to form a quorum. Proposed changes to Club rules shall be delivered to the Secretary at least 14 days before an AGM ensuring proposed changes can be displayed on the Club notice board and or communicated to members via email, letter or website. **An AGM or EGM May be made available online to allow all members to participate. A fully virtual meeting is permitted.**

Rationale from proposer: To enfranchise all members. As proven by the EGM on 25th November 2020, more members can attend and take part in the governance of their club.

Results of electronic voting: YES 101 (77%), NO 30 (23%), ABSTAIN 11.
Proposal carried.

4 Amend rule 4.5 proposed by David Petters

Members shall be given the opportunity to discuss and vote on any resolution, including policy or a change to the Rules and deal with any other business put to the meeting. **Members must not be asked to breach any CASC requirements, Statutory law, or any unlawful change to the Constitution.**

Rationale from proposer: The Club must conform to CASC regulation, the law of the land, and its own constitution. Therefore members cannot be asked to vote for a motion that contravenes these requirements. For example, they cannot vote for a rule that would risk the Club's status as a Community Amateur Sports Club.

Results of electronic voting: YES 98 (76%), NO 31 (24%), ABSTAIN 13.
Proposal carried.

5 **Amend rule 4.6** proposed by David Petters

A number of members, being not less than ten or less than ten per cent of the members entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, whichever is the greater shall be capable of summoning an EGM at any time on giving not less than twenty one days' notice of their intention, by displaying a notice on the Club notice board and ensuring the use of electronic mail, letter and website is used to ensure full publicity is afforded to members. **The Club Secretary MUST publish a Notice of EGM immediately upon receipt of a legitimate motion. It is not within the power of the Committee or Trustees to prevent a EGM.**

Rationale from proposer: This is to prevent any Committee obstructing a legitimate EGM.

Results of electronic voting: YES 101 (79%), NO 27 (21%), ABSTAIN 14.
Proposal carried.

6 **Amend rule 4.7** proposed by David Petters

Only Flying Members, Associated Flying Members and Social Members who have paid their subscriptions in full are entitled to vote at any AGM or EGM. **The vote for Committee must be by secret ballot with a yes/no option for each candidate. A simple majority is required for a successful candidate.**

Rationale from proposer: Ensure voting is carried in a fair and proper manner at AGM/EGM for election of officers.

Bill Fisher asked the if the rule should be yes/no/abstain. Jeff Helm replied he would correct the rule prior to the vote.

Results of electronic voting: YES 112 (82%), NO 24 (18%), ABSTAIN 6.
Proposal carried.

7 **Remove rule 4.8** proposed by David Petters

~~The President has traditionally been an honorary appointment with no executive function, elected at an AGM from nominations of the Committee or members in recognition of continued and excellent service to the Club. The role primarily is to promote the wellbeing of the Club for its membership both internally and in the wider community by assisting to develop relationships between the Club and other institutions and associations as appropriate. Activities may include 'ceremonial' duties such as presenting awards, hosting receptions, proposing toasts or attending events as an official~~

~~representative of The Club and to take the chair at the AGM on the resignation of the old committee; prior to the re-election of the new committee. Furthermore, the role has been an arbitrator and medium for disputes between members or the Committee and members.~~

~~(a) Appointment of the President – the candidate should be a member of the Club who by their dedication, contribution and approach is acknowledged as an individual who could provide inspiration, guidance and support to the Club. Nomination is by a member and seconded by a further two members shall be made in writing to the Club Secretary not less than twenty one days prior to an AGM when reappointment is due. The Secretary shall provide the details of the nomination to members in a notice to be displayed on the Club notice board and by other electronic means if available. The proposal for Honorary President shall be made to members by the proposer at an AGM and shall be approved by a majority vote of those attending the meeting.~~

~~(b) Length of appointment – the President may be appointed for term of appointment of three years. The term of appointment should be reviewed at the end of the term by the membership at an AGM and may be renewed for a further term.~~ CLUB RULES

~~(c) the President may be asked to stand down at an AGM or by the committee should they bring the role into disrepute.~~

Rationale from proposer: The role seems very outdated and open to misinterpretation of authority.

Results of electronic voting: YES 68 (57%), NO 51 (43%), ABSTAIN 23.
Proposal not carried.

8 Amend rule 4.8a proposed by Steve Brown

Appointment of the President - the candidate should be a **flying member (based at Fenland)** of the Club who by their dedication, contribution and approach is acknowledged as an individual who could provide inspiration, guidance and support to the Club.

Rationale from proposer: The President should have full allegiance to the FAC, rather than having his allegiance focused on another airfield as the last President had, being an associate member. This will also align the role of President with the requirement to be a committee member.

Results of electronic voting: YES 84 (65%), NO 45 (35%), ABSTAIN 13.
Proposal not carried.

9 Amend rule 5.1 proposed by David Petters

Trustees of Fenland Aero Club - are made up of the following persons:

- Fenland Aero Club (Licencing) Ltd - Director who also acts as the CAA Aerodrome Licensee and two other ordinary shareholders made up of **elected members of the** Club committee ~~or members.~~
- Fenland Aero Club - the Club Secretary, the Club Treasurer and members of the Club Committee ~~and the President.~~

Rationale from proposer: Shareholders of FAC Licensing Ltd should be elected officers of the Club, as they have some accountability for safety and some authority over appointment of the Accountable Manager. The President should not be considered a Trustee of the Club. If the role remains, it is purely a figurehead position for ceremonial duties. Making the President a trustee can lead to confusion over the role, affording a perception of authority, which Rule 4.8 clearly shows does not exist.

Results of electronic voting: YES 85 (66%), NO 43 (34%), ABSTAIN 14.
Proposal not carried.

10 Amend rule 5.3 proposed by David Petters

(a) A committee shall be elected by the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) **by secret ballot. Any candidate must be approved by a simple majority in the secret ballot. If more than 7 candidates receive votes, the 7 candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected to serve.**

(b) The committee shall consist of a Secretary, Treasurer and an adequate number of members to form a Committee of not less than five and not more than **seven** ~~eleven~~. See also Para 5.21.

(c) Any person who has been removed from a committee by an EGM SHALL be excluded from serving on any future committee.

Rationale from proposer: A secret ballot must be held with a yes/no option for each candidate, regardless of numbers of nominations for Committee. This prevents any member being proposed who may not have the backing of the membership. A simple majority is required for that candidate to serve on an FAC Committee. If insufficient numbers make it, a Management Team must be appointed at the meeting. If more than 7 candidates are successful, the ones with the most votes take post. Eleven members is a very large Committee. 5-7 is more desirable to allow all members of the Committee a voice. A member who has been removed from a Committee by EGM vote by the membership is not suitable for future service on a Club Committee and shall not be eligible for nomination.

Liam Leys stated that some committee members removed by EGM have put a lot into the club and it should not be a blanket ban. David replied he agreed and that some form of tweaking may be needed. Bill Fisher asked whether a reduce committee of 7 would still be able to carry out all the duties required. David replied this was definitely a fair point to consider and that people aren't obliged to vote for it. Dave Capon stated the rules allow for a sub committee (rule 4.11) to be appointed outside the committee.

Results of electronic voting: YES 74 (56%), NO 58 (44%), ABSTAIN 10.
Proposal not carried.

11 Amend rule 5.4 proposed by Steve Brown

Nominations for the Committee shall be posted on the Club notice board by the Secretary with the notice of the AGM and shall be displayed on the Club notice board not less than fourteen days and not more than twenty-one days prior to the date of the proposed AGM. Nominations shall be sponsored and seconded by a member. **Nominations may be sent via email to the Secretary. Upon election, Committee members shall sign a declaration**

stating that they will act in good faith and always act in the club members' best interests.

Rationale from proposer: Just to remind committee members of their obligations, something the previous committee lost sight of. Allowing a more modern approach to the process of nominations from more distant members.

Results of electronic voting: YES 100 (76%), NO 32 (24%), ABSTAIN 10.

Proposal carried.

12 Amend rule 5.5 proposed by Liam Leys

Committee members shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. No person may be nominated to serve on the committee (or management team) unless he or she has been a flying, **associate** or social member of the Club for two full consecutive years. Only one related family member may serve on the Committee at any one time.

Rationale from proposer: I am proposing that the rule be changed to allow associate members the right to be on the committee, as per rule 2.2 it states that an associate membership provides free landing fees and social membership. Therefore an associate membership is the same as a social member so privileges should be the same.

Results of electronic voting: YES 63 (49%), NO 65 (51%), ABSTAIN 14.

Proposal not carried.

13 Amend rule 5.5 proposed by Dave Capon

Committee members shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. No person may be nominated to serve on the committee (or management team) unless he or she has been a **flying member (based at Fenland), or social member** of the Club for two full consecutive years **prior to nomination**. Only one related family member may serve on the Committee at any one time. **Members voted out of office at an EGM will unable to serve on any future committee at FAC.**

Rationale from proposer: FAC is primarily an AERO club and as such is run under the 'Amateur Sports club rules' for the sport of flying. It is not a social club. The income generated from Flying members and visiting aircraft year ending 31st March 2021 was around £160,000. The amount raised from social membership was £908. There is a huge difference between the two, yet Social members are eligible for committee membership and can decide how and when that money is spent on behalf of, not only visiting pilots but also Pilots based at Fenland. Only Flying Members based at Fenland should be eligible for committee membership, they contribute the vast majority of funds and as Pilots know best how they would like their airfield managed, not by someone who decides to have a meal in the restaurant. Any member who has been expelled from a Committee by the members is not fit to hold office in the future. An EGM is an extreme measure of dissatisfaction within the membership. The 2 year rule has been ambiguous in the past. It stands to reason that a member should have served at least 2 full years as a Flying member immediately prior to nomination. This protects the Club from members appearing from the woodwork to manipulate the Club, perhaps with an outside interest. Years served with any gap do not count in the 2 year rule, they have to be consecutive, immediately prior to nomination.

Paul Brian stated that a long time go only flying members were eligible for the committee, until the social club bailed them out but wanted a say in the running of the club. Associate members would be deemed a conflict of interest. Bill Fisher stated that there are lot of senior ex-flying members that now have a social membership and have a lot of knowledge. Dave Capon replied this was a fair point and maybe ex-flying members should be considered. Liam stated his aircraft has moved airfields but is still committed to Fenland and therefore in future he is likely to downgrade to associate membership. Mary Payne stated that each person needs to be nominated and voted and therefore the members don't have to vote them onto the committee.

Results of electronic voting: YES 72 (56%), NO 56 (44%), ABSTAIN 14.
Proposal not carried.

14 **Amend rule 5.7** proposed by David Petters

(l) Such necessary steps to negotiate with the Landlord on lease matters or raise and maintain 'Licenses' for other businesses to operate from the Club's **premises** ~~demise~~ or use the Club's facilities on behalf of the members.

(m) Membership approval MUST be sought by the Committee for any proposed new Licensee as part of the due diligence process.

Rationale from proposer: (l) spelling update. (m) Prevents a Committee making decisions about licensees at Fenland without the prior consent of the membership. New Licensees should face an open process with the members.

Results of electronic voting: YES 89 (68%), NO 42 (32%), ABSTAIN 11.
Proposal carried.

15 **Amend rule 6.24** proposed by David Petters

The Club may terminate this Licence on giving three months written notice ~~and~~ following **approval of the membership at an AGM or EGM,** following serious misconduct or breach of the licence, **by the licensee.**

Rationale from proposer: Protect the Club from breach of contract. Unless a licensee has breached the terms of a license, there are not grounds to terminate a license within its lifetime. Any termination MUST be with the approval of the majority of members.

Results of electronic voting: YES 89 (69%), NO 40 (31%), ABSTAIN 13.
Proposal carried.

16 **Add rule 6.25** proposed by David Petters

The Club must carry out a process of due diligence with new Licensees. This is to include references, business history over the past 5 years and a criminal record check. References from previous base airfields are desired. The Club must ascertain the business requirement for a new licensee at the Club. The membership SHALL be consulted as part of the due diligence process.

Rationale from proposer: Prevent any Committee introducing new licensees without fully checking suitability for the role, including a commercial requirement at the airfield and the wishes of the members.

Bill Fisher stated that a new business wouldn't have 5 years of trading history but could be good for the airfield. David Petters stated that these were just guidelines and personal references could be used.

Results of electronic voting: YES 97 (72%), NO 37 (28%), ABSTAIN 8.
Proposal carried.

17 Remove rule 9.1 proposed by David Petters

~~The Committee shall have the authority to promulgate such byelaws and to amend the Club Rules and Fenland Aerodrome and Daily Operations Manuals as considered necessary. Following Committee approval, such byelaws and amendments to the Club Rules and Fenland Aerodrome and Daily Operations Manuals shall be effective and binding on all members immediately, the promulgation of byelaws and amendments to Club rules and the Fenland Aerodrome Manual available electronically through the Club Secretary, and on the web site (see 4:1).~~

Rationale from proposer: The wording of this rule is open to abuse from a wayward Committee. Rule 4.1 covers the Rule changes without recourse to AGM/EGM. The Club has the ability to call a General Meeting at any time, under rule 4.2 where major and urgent changes to the constitution can be discussed outside the time frame for AGM.

Results of electronic voting: YES 80 (64%), NO 45 (36%), ABSTAIN 17.
Proposal not carried.

18 New rule 9.1 proposed by David Petters

The Committee shall poll the members of the Club in writing and electronically. A simple majority shall be deemed to consent to polled changes.

Rationale from proposer: To add the ability to consult the membership on a less formal, but still binding, manner. Polling the membership regularly will ensure the Club is travelling in the direction the members wish.

Keith Wilson said the problem with forcing the members to be asked is that you take away the effectiveness from an elected committee. David Petters said he agreed but there still needs to be a way for the committee to ask the members officially.

Results of electronic voting: YES 97 (75%), NO 32 (25%), ABSTAIN 13.
Proposal carried.

19 Amend rule 9.3 proposed by Steve Brown

~~The interpretation of the Club Rules and Fenland Aerodrome and Daily Operations Manuals and byelaws and the settlement of any questions or disputes shall rest entirely with the Committee whose decision shall be final.~~ **In the case of ambiguity concerning the**

interpretation of the club rules or aerodrome manual, then the rule etc shall be applied in a fair and reasonable manner. If ambiguity still exists, the final decision shall lay with the consensus of members' opinions at an AGM or EGM.

Rationale from proposer: As it was written, this rule is open to exploitation by a wayward committee, who are able to justify their own perverted actions by 'interpreting' ANY of the rules as they see fit (as did the previous committee).

Dave Capon asked who decides if there is ambiguity in order to consult the members and that the wording should be tweaked. Steve said he just wanted a facility for the interpretation of a rule to be taken to the members.

Results of electronic voting: YES 94 (72%), NO 36 (28%), ABSTAIN 12.
Proposal carried.

9) AOB

Ed Comber wanted to clarify that White Fen Farm was not taking on new aeroplanes, it has the same hangarage as 10 years ago. There are no plans to expand the strip.

David Petters thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned at 22:24.

WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2021

Video Conference Meeting Convened 6.30pm

Present:

Ade Thomas	Fiona Carter	Linda Edwards	Richard Townsend
Adrian Willis	Fiona West	Lisa Brian	Rob Rowley
Barrie Colvin	Fred Hahn	Martin Brooks	Rynardt Spies
Bill Fisher	Gary Livings	Mary Payne	Simon Cooke
Braden Connolly	Graham Kiddy	Michael Humphrey	Stephen Dawson
Carole Evans	Gregory Pelling	Michael Hunt	Steve Brown
Charles Acland	Harry Schul	Mick Lowis	Steve Burnside
Chris Rees	Jeff Helm	Neil Grantham	Steve Culpin
Colin Albone	Jim Blaylock	Neville Stamford	Steve Pearson
Crosby Johnson	John Petters	Nigel de Soyza	Steven Lyden
Dave Capon	Joseph Connolly	Oliver Wheeldon	Stuart Belding
David Murfitt	Joshua Brown	Paul Brian	Tim Dighton
David Parfrey	Keith Wilson	Paul Needham	Wayne Precious
David Parkinson	Ken Wilson	Pete Suckow	Zbigniew Krasa
David Petters	Kerry Allen	Phil Parsons	
David Russell	Liam Leys	Pippa Blaylock	

Electronic voting window 2 – 07 July 2021 22:00 to 10 July 2021 23:59

10) APOLOGIES: Alan Plummer, Ray Nicholson, Guillaume D'hoore, Edmund Comber

11) INTRODUCTION

David Petters re-opened the meeting. The proposed changes to rule 5.5 did not pass. Bill Fisher does not qualify for committee only having served one year as a social member. The landlords do not qualify under rule 5.6 and clause 6.1 of the lease. This leaves 11 nominations.

12) COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Each nominee was asked to give a short introduction about themselves.

Liam Leys

I'm Liam, I'm 21 and I've been a member of the airfield for 5 years. I learnt with Fenland Flying School and gained my PPL in just over a year. Pro-active during training I attended all the flyouts and did my work experience at the airfield so have a hands on background. After qualifying I stayed with them as a hirer and have since moved on to flying a Eurostar microlight over the last year. I also participate with the A/G radio at Fenland helping out in the tower for the last 3 years and I've been on IER for the last 3 years. After speaking with the fire crew, if I do make it onto the committee they are happy for me to take on the role of IER manager.

Results of electronic voting: YES 86 (78%), NO 24 (22%), ABSTAIN 16.

Liam Leys elected to the committee.

Paul Brian

I first joined Fenland in 1992 when I learnt to fly and have been there on and off, and continuously for the last 11 years. I very much love the club and that's why I'm instructing there today. I've had various roles such as IER manager and been on the committee several times. I'm not a walking rule book, I try to keep myself to myself but I'm of the opinion that rules do matter, they are not to be broken, they are important so we can all enjoy the club equally. After all the rules are the things that keep us safe in the air. We should try to head to a position where we are doing less politics, we stay within the rules and we get on with the day to day running of the club and try to enhance the day to day for the benefit of all members. After all, we all share a passion for flying and that is our common denominator. I can assure you that the club means a great deal to me.

Results of electronic voting: YES 59 (52%), NO 54 (48%), ABSTAIN 13.

Paul Brian elected to the committee.

Braden Connolly

I've been a member since October 2017 doing my PPL with FFS and have been hiring with them ever since. Things needs to be addressed and resolved and hopefully those of you that know me would agree that I do tend to stay calm and rational and try to resolve things through building relationships. I'd like to think that people recognise me for my integrity. I'm currently a director for a public body responsible for training in the construction industry, so a reasonable amount of experience around governance. I hope I can do something to improve the situation, I have no desire to have control of the club. I only live 6

miles from the airfield, so it's very much in my interest that the club and the airfield is a successful happy place for me to go flying.

Results of electronic voting: YES 76 (69%), NO 35 (31%), ABSTAIN 15.
Braden Connolly elected to the committee.

Guillaume D'hoore

(Guillaume was not in the meeting so David Petters read the introduction from the briefing pack)

I'm Guillaume from Belgium. 41 years old. Started flying 22 years ago at the age of 19. On a professional level I'm a Captain on B777 and B787, and in a previous job I've held a (lower) management position which gave me experience in liaising with different parties (ATC, pilots, handling companies etc...) who many times had conflicting interests. So I would consider myself diplomatic. I joined FAC 5 years ago, being part of the group flying the Portuguese Chipmunk...

So far I have never been involved on any other level than flying the Chipmunk. However having seen recent events unfolding, it feels time to get involved more and hopefully restore the atmosphere I have known in the early days. Please note that I don't know most 'protagonists' involved in the current political issues, so a fresh face in the committee might be helpful?

Fenland is really a fantastic airfield and I would love to contribute what I can in making sure everything is done in the benefit of the club and its members.

Results of electronic voting: YES 70 (66%), NO 36 (34%), ABSTAIN 20.
Guillaume D'hoore elected to the committee.

Jeff Helm

I think everyone knows me, prior to the previous committee I was the club secretary for 3 years. I've been flying for 20 years now, both fixed wing and helicopter. Originally based at Cranfield I moved to Lincolnshire about 7 years ago. I've never owned a plane, always rented and that gives me lots of experience with different flight schools. A few people have said that I have a commercial interest in FFS because I rent one of their planes, I don't understand it because that is like saying I have a commercial interest in the restaurant because I eat there. There are lots of people that train and self fly hire with FFS, it does not give them a commercial interest. To answer Dino's question he asked last week about the priorities of the management team, my number priority is for the club, it always has been. Otherwise why would I go to the trouble of being club secretary or on the IER rota for the last 5 years. I'm there every week doing post, bills, checking the fuel stock etc. I am dedicated to the club and I hope everyone believes me. The role of secretary takes a lot of time and I have a busy full time job, but I do it because I really want to support the club. When I'm at the airfield I make the effort to speak to everyone, I speak to the flying school, the restaurant, the tower, even talk to the landlords. I'm happy to continue what I do and try and take the club forwards.

Results of electronic voting: YES 99 (81%), NO 24 (19%), ABSTAIN 3.
Jeff Helm elected to the committee.

Crosby Johnson

I'm generally interested in the airfield because I've got aircraft in the Nissen hangar. I'm interested in all aspects of what everyone is doing, in the past I've been a flying instructor for microlights in the North. I'm a structural and mechanical engineer and left instructing to go back into my profession. I've met such a lot of nice people at the airfield and liked to get to know everyone. I notice a lot of people have left the airfield, maybe we'll all get back together again. I am what I am, straightforward, and if elected on the committee would be happy to help with the running of the airfield.

Results of electronic voting: YES 66 (62%), NO 40 (38%), ABSTAIN 20.
Crosby Johnson elected to the committee.

Phil Parsons

I enjoy flying at Fenland, I've been a full member since 2016 and I fly the Beagle Pup. I learnt to fly at Rochester in 1980 and have had a passion for all things aviation from a young age. I wish to play an active role at Fenland for the benefit of all the flying club members and maintain a high standard and integrity of the club.

Results of electronic voting: YES 77 (77%), NO 23 (23%), ABSTAIN 26.
Phil Parsons elected to the committee.

David Petters

I've been on the management team since the EGM and have been coming to Fenland since 1996 when I had a trial flight for my 12th birthday. My PPL was built up over 20 minute lessons whenever I could afford it through my teens and qualified in 2006. I did my ATPL at Stapleford and eventually ended up with Ryanair where I became a captain on 737 in 2010. I've been at Fenland on and off but re-joined in 2014 when we moved the Chipmunk up from the south. Fenland is such a wonderful airfield and we enjoy the fantastic grass runways, airspace, atmosphere and it's home for my aviation passion. I live and breathe aviation, I was out today flying the Tiger Moth and I fly the Chipmunk whenever I can. In August 2020 I approach FFS through the ex-committee to operate the Chipmunk under their DTO and I've offer tailwheel conversion and air experience flights with the Chipmunk ever since. It's my own contacts and advertising, I pay FFS a fee to use their DTO as I do with other ATOs and DTOs around the country. Going forwards it's been a very tough 2 years, it's not been pleasant on the management team trying to unravel what has happened. It's been a thankless task over 18 months and not something I wanted to do but I wanted to get the information out there to the members to see and vote on. It's about time everything de-escalated, we need to have an open dialog with everybody, tempers need to be calmed and people need to sit down and talk rationally and stop the chinese whispers. We all love the airfield, we are all here for the same reason for our passion of flying, we love the area. Let's try and take it forward and make it a better place.

Results of electronic voting: YES 71 (59%), NO 50 (41%), ABSTAIN 5.
David Petters elected to the committee.

Rynardt Spies

I've been with Fenland since 2016, I had my first lesson with FFS and I've just recently passed my skills test a month ago. I work in IT and spend my life in banks and government institutions, I've seen all sorts of political dramas play out and learnt the hard how to respond and not respond to those. I'm not here to defend FFS, the ex-committee, the

management team, the landlords, I'm here to defend what is right and what is wrong. It's easy to sit at home and criticise other people, but I wanted to get involved and see where I can make a difference. I'm not shy to get my hands dirty, I like to think I'm quite handy in a practical sense. Just for clarity for anyone that thinks I have a commercial interest I own the flight simulator currently based at Fenland Airfield. I've been doing flight simulation as a hobby for 30 years, I wanted to buy a flight simulator but could never justify spending the money with it sitting at home. Steve wanted a flight simulator so I did a deal to put my flight simulator at Fenland to be available for all members whether they fly with FFS or not, and even the public to use at a much lower rate than elsewhere in the country. I don't make any money, it still owes me 22k and I've made around 1k in the past 2 years. It will never pay me back, it is there for the enjoyment of all members and I spend my free time maintaining it.

Results of electronic voting: YES 75 (68%), NO 35 (32%), ABSTAIN 16.
Rynardt Spies elected to the committee.

Gavin Cole

(Gavin was not in the meeting so David Petters read the introduction from the briefing pack) What can I bring to the committee? I have an open mind I don't know many people at the club. I am a self made business man a roofer by trade I now own a farm with 2500 pigs I am also landlord . I am handy with farm machinery and I can roll my sleeves up and get things done there may be things I can do to help. I will do my best to represent the best interests of all members.

My impression is that the old committee got things done for the club . They we're ousted at the EGM the management team we elected were supposed to keep the airfield going not conduct witch hunts and seek to expel respected members of the club for just doing their best. What is going on now is plain nasty and vindictive and i don't believe that is what the members voted for. Further it seems that the management team are tied with FFS and trying to take the place over. I'm not bothered about the FFS being here good luck to them, I just don't want them to run the club.

Therefore I want the members to remove this management team and exonerate and reinstate all of those good members to the club. When they gave notice to the FFS it was under the landlords instruction, As I have said I dont know anyone involved in this these are obvious observations when these long standing members are gone who is next ?

Results of electronic voting: YES 55 (49%), NO 57 (51%), ABSTAIN 14.
Gavin Cole not elected to the committee.

Tony Short

(Tony was not in the meeting so David Petters read the introduction from the briefing pack) My name is Tony Short, I have been a member of the club since 1994. I was on the committee with my wife, Teresa and organised the wheels and wing event(25th jubilee). I want the club to return to its earlier days when every one was welcome and flyers are not tuned away by the behaviour Of other people. I learnt to fly at Bourne in 1983, and failed my medical 2018, my log book shows nearly 2000 hours PIC.

Results of electronic voting: YES 55 (51%), NO 52 (49%), ABSTAIN 19.
Tony Short elected to the committee.

13) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Linda Edwards thanked the management team for their effort in running the aero club between the EGM and AGM and protecting the members from the consequence of the previous committee. She also thanked to Mary Payne for allowing us to have an EGM.

Jim Blaylock stated that he voted to support the management team at the EGM to look after the airfield until the next AGM and take back all the decisions to the membership. What has happened is the membership has been ignored and decisions were made including suspensions. We are now faced with a large number of people standing for election who have vested interest. Paul Brian works for the flying school, David Petters buys time from the flying school, Jeff hires Steve's aeroplane and another guy who has a simulator at the flying school. I'm sure you will all get in but that's not what you promised. I wrote a letter after the AGM asking it to be sent to the membership but I was told it was undemocratic. Anyone that has a disagreement does not have a voice. I've not got an axe to grind with the flying school, Steve and the school do a great job, but this is about the club and not the flying school. There are now not enough candidates to have an opposition.

Fiona Carter said she doesn't understand what has changed since she was last on the committee. Flight instructors have no place to be on the committee. David Petters replied that proprietors of companies on the airfield will be ex-officio members of the committee. Rule 5.6 is not intended for anyone else and it specially mentions members with a commercial interest in Fenland Aero Club. One could argue every single member has a commercial interest in the club as we all want it to continue to succeed and we all pay our membership. Fiona replied she disagreed and it has never been that way, anyone with a revenue from the flying school has a commercial interest.

Bill Fisher wanted to make members aware of a letter from the club's solicitors the day before the EGM stating the route that was being taken would breach our insurance. After the EGM a different solicitor stated a different opinion. Bill asked are the people that have stood for election aware of the legal advice and do they consider themselves at risk of being sued as a result of what has happened? Jeff Helm answered the first question, the solicitor's letter was raised at the EGM, included in the EGM minutes and emailed to all the members. David Petters added there is conflicting evidence from the same solicitors saying it was up to the club to renew the licence. Braden replied that as a trustee on the committee there is a responsibility to act properly and if we act in good faith within the rules and the constitution, he expects indemnity insurance would be valid.

Keith Wilson stated he was concerned that this section is supposed to be Q&A to the committee nominees, not about political comments and to get the meeting back on track.

Paul Brian stated he was a self-employed flying instructor at FFS, he doesn't have a commercial interest in the club and whilst it could be perceived that way he has been on the committee several times and even chairman at one point. He doesn't recall any time when someone has suggested he acted in a manner favouring the flying school over the club. Paul asked whether committee members that haven't attended the meeting today with no apologies, are they still eligible for the committee given we can't ask them any questions? Braden asked if we could give them a quick call to see if they are available. David Petters said you have until Saturday to ask candidates any questions through the secretary. Jeff attempted to call them but replied there was no answer.

Mary Payne asked if questions and answers to/from committee nominee emails through the secretary will be available to members? Jeff Helm replied yes they would be passed on to the members as they are received.

Steve Pearson asked how the majority vote for the committee nominees works. David Petters replied it was a simple majority. Jeff Helm clarified that if the number of “yes” votes is greater than the number of “no” votes for each nominee, then they will be elected.

14) AOB

There was no AOB. David Petters thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned at 19:26.

15) MEETING CLOSURE

Jeff Helm emailed all the members July 11 at 09:00 to announce the new elected committee and the meeting was formally closed.