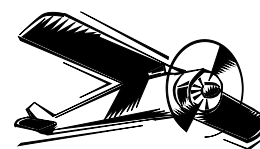


# FENLAND AERO CLUB – Management Team

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

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB COMMITTEE

<b>Present:</b>	David Petters (DP), Jeff Helm (JH), Braden Connolly (BC), Rynardt Spies (RS), Phil Parsons (PP), Paul Brian (PB), Crosby Johnson (CJ), Steve Brown (SB)
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	

**THURSDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 18:00**

### 1) SAFETY MEETING

There were no items to raise.

### 2) APOLOGIES: Kerry Allen

### 3) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the committee meetings held on 26 August 2021 and 10 September 2021 were approved.

### 4) MATTERS ARISING

JH asked for a new Vice Chairman and new IER Manager after Liam's resignation. JH explained the IER Manager role and an in-depth discussion followed on the lack of volunteers for the IER crew. A proposed change by the ICAO would mean small airfields do not have to provide fire cover from November 2022 but this would require subsequent alignment by the CAA. Without IER we cannot be a licensed airfield and would then be in breach of our lease. Two names were suggested for IER Manager and the committee will follow up with them. DP said he would be happy to cover if no one can be found.

BC proposed himself to be Vice Chairman. DP seconded and there were no objections.

A discussion followed on the ongoing proposition to make the concrete in front of the new hangars airside, taking into account some views of the membership. It was noted that the grass is also airside and cars should not manoeuvre on the grass. We also need to accommodate anyone with disabilities who own aircraft. BC said we must understand the impact on members and need

to contact them prior to the change to airside. **Action RS to write to the members to inform them of the proposed change and ask for their concerns.**

#### **5) CLUB ADMINISTRATION**

There were no new members this month.

ATC have requested a new computer in the tower as the current one is old, slow and crashing all the time. It was approved to spend up to £500.

#### **6) FINANCE**

BC presented the August accounts reporting everything on track. The Wrights have indicated the airfield and hangars could be purchased by the club for £1.5 million. The club will need a formal valuation in order to secure a mortgage. Cash in the bank is approximately £125k and a commercial mortgage would likely have a loan to value ratio of 60-75%. Therefore we would need to find a way to fund the shortfall in deposit, although the amount we pay in rent should service any mortgage payments. There is a defined process to move from an unincorporate club to a Limited company club and the club will still be able to run as a CASC. JH stated that if we could double the hangarage as part of funding then that would provide another 50k of income each year. **Action BC to follow up with our accountants and a financial advisor.** PB suggested the whole committee get together with Mr and Mrs Wright to discuss the specifics of what is for sale and any concerns they have. **Action ALL to meet with the landlords Saturday evening.**

#### **7) FUEL**

JH reported YTD sales of £73k against a £100k budget, end of year sales will hopefully be around £130k.

#### **8) SAFETY MATTERS**

Gavin Cole had made a complaint against an organised group of enthusiasts spending 30 minutes at the airfield looking at the aircraft in the hangars escorted, taking photos. There was concern specifically for the Nissen hangar where aircraft are more delicate. DP stated there wasn't a breach of the rules but questioned whether the airfield policy should be changed. A discussion followed trying to find a balance between promoting friendly Fenland and the security of the hangars and aircraft. It was agreed that unfortunately no further group tours inside the hangars would be permitted at Fenland.

#### **9) AIRFIELD GENERAL**

JH thanked the IER crew for repainting the helicopter landing pad by the Jet A1 tank.

Simon Cooke had requested access to AFPEX from the tower at a cost of £500pa to view and activate flight plans. This spend was not approved at the current time.

CJ asked if the club planned on putting someone in the caravan as an on-airfield security presence. JH explained the history and the insurance and tax problems with being perceived as an employee, that made a night watchman unviable. Better CCTV, lighting, alarms etc would be preferable as a deterrent to thieves.

PB said the 08/26 markings are near invisible and the airfield signs, windsocks, fences and fuel apron concrete need replacing. **Action JH to order new windsocks.** We need to order more weedkiller and chalk before we can redo the runway markings. DP suggested organising a working party to help. **Action DP to organise a working party.** PB suggested a utility vehicle such as a quad bike to aid the members in the various airfield jobs that need to be done. Alternatively a Gator could be purchased but would be more expensive. **Action ALL to review airfield signage and check the runway lights.** We had planned to replace the concrete from the AVGAS fuel shed to the chain fence, but PB asked if we should consider levelling the ground first so that if we choose to concrete to the old hangar at a later date, it would already be level. It was agreed to get a quote to remove the old concrete, supply and pour the new concrete. **Action PB to get a fully inclusive concrete quote.**

It was agreed to replace all the fence around the clubhouse and AVGAS apron. The entrance sign also needs replacing.

## **10) HANGARS**

Members have requested a tug in order to move the heavy planes. RS will investigate further. Hangar lighting needs improving and additional power sockets to minimise extension leads.

## **11) EVENTS**

The VAC would like their 2022 fly-in on May 7, 2022, this was agreed. JH asked if we should have any further fly-ins before the end of the year, it was agreed to focus on next year. Wings and Wheels 2022 was also discussed.

## **12) AOB**

BC gave an update on the complaint from the CAP group regarding the propeller collision, after meeting both parties. A discussion followed and concluded that the committee could not categorically say that someone from the Cessna group knowingly caused the damage. Therefore the complaint could not be upheld.

The meeting closed at 20:29.

Date of next meeting: Friday 29 October 2021 18:00