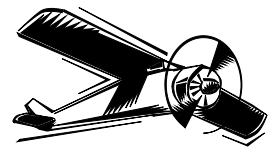


FENLAND AERO CLUB – Management Team

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

Present:	David Petters (DP), Jeff Helm (JH), Braden Connolly (BC), Rynardt Spies (RS), Phil Parsons (PP), Paul Brian – after 7pm (PB), Crosby Johnson (CJ), Steve Brown (SB)
Others in Attendance:	

FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER 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 meeting held on 25 November 2021 were approved.

4) MATTERS ARISING

DP reported that Claire Buckley has issued proceedings in the High Court against the previous Management Team. The club's insurance and solicitors are dealing with it and a meeting is scheduled with a Barrister in January to respond with a defence. The claim is covered by the club's insurance policy with zero excess.

The working party to chalk the runway markings is scheduled for Monday December 20. If time, the working party will also fill some of the cracks in the runways with sand. JH will issue a NOTAM and produce a risk assessment.

Oliver Wheeldon has accepted the role of Accountable Manager and the CAA have been informed.

Action JH to give Oliver Wheeldon access to FAC Dropbox and FAC email.

JH asked whether the new disabled parking spaces by the Nissen Hangar need the ground preparing to avoid damage to any cars. A discussion followed whether the area needs concreting or matting as it is difficult to operate wheelchairs on gravel. PB to follow up.

BC had received a valuation update for the airfield, with a value to the Aero Club of £1million and a likely value from a mortgage company of £850k. As we believe the landlords have had offers of £1.5million this puts the purchase of the airfield out of reach of the club. DP asked if crowd funding was an option.

JH had received a quote of around £12k to automate the Jet A1 pump using the same payment provider as our Avgas. With a 10k turnover and 4k profit, the investment would have to be justified by an increase in future sales. BC asked if we could pick up business from Holbeach Range, JH to follow up with the Army Air Corps.

Another fencing quote had been received for £6962. The fence is becoming both a safety and reputational issue, so after one more quote we just need to get the work done.

5) CLUB ADMINISTRATION

We have 6 new members this month, Laura Atkocaite (social), Vicky Geeson (social), Susan Palethorpe (social), Eric Kaplan (flying), Stuart Baylis (flying) and Lee Brown-Ahern (flying).

PB had asked through JH whether FAC should have a “company” credit card. Currently for companies that will not invoice FAC direct, individuals need to purchase items using their own funds and then claim back on expenses. With a company card there would have to be a purchase order system implemented for authorisations and administration. It was agreed to keep the current process as is.

6) FINANCE

BC presented the November accounts with a YTD income of £176k vs £155k for the same period last year. JH added that the Covid grant offsets the current fuel discount, the reduced business rates offset the lack of events and we have spent about £6k of extras this year.

7) FUEL

UL91 has been delivered and we are now into new Avgas stock leading to a 9ppl increase in sale price. A decision on continuing the reduced member markups needs to be agreed before the end of the financial year.

8) SAFETY MATTERS

Action JH to ask Ricky to quote for fixing the car park lights and improving the lighting in the old hangar and Bay 8.

9) AIRFIELD GENERAL

The CAA are planning an onsite audit on January 12, 2022. Ray Nicholson is happy to attend and assist.

One of our members is friends with the owner of 360radar and has provided an ADSB receiver for the tower. If a member is prepared to donate a TV screen, it would be good to have a virtual radar screen in the clubhouse for members to see arriving and departing aircraft.

10) IER/RFFS

Evening fire training has been postponed to the new year due to sickness.

11) HANGARS

RS reported a couple of spaces in the old hangar that are being progressed with the people on the waiting list. A discussion followed on reorganising aircraft to keep all the flexwings together. One potential solution is to move the broken aerobatic aircraft from Bay 4 to the back of the old hangar and CJ to move his fixed wing aircraft from the Nissen hangar to Bay 4 at his existing rate.

The old hangar needs a tidy up as the rear of the old hangar is full of junk taking up space that an aircraft could use. All hangar occupants should be responsible for keeping their hangars clean and tidy, this includes emptying bins.

12) EVENTS

2022 is the 50th anniversary of Fenland Aero Club. DP has contacts if we wish to organise an air display as part of Wings and Wheels. **Action DP to investigate dates and costs for an air display.**

As a club we should look at organising group flyouts to other airfields in 2022, both local and also further afield such as Scotland or France.

13) FENLAND FLYING SCHOOL

A question had arisen about whether hangar members bringing in their own instructors to Fenland for check flights and ratings, could affect our lease due to the rules around flight training and licenses required to operate. Microlight instruction is also affected as we don't have any Fenland based instructors. BC suggested we send a note to members asking them to contact the committee before they wish to bring an instructor to Fenland, allowing us to seek relevant approvals.

SB presented a number of requested changes to the terms and conditions of their licence. Aside from a few typos, minor clarifications and change of address, the changes are:

2.1 Add “Following the period of five years after the commencement date, unless any termination clause as in section 8 is complied with or enacted, this licence shall be deemed to be renewed with no further expiry date specified, unless both parties agree an alternative arrangement. No further landlord consent shall be required for this or any future licence/agreement pertaining to the licensee.”

6.6 Amend “not be more than the Club members” price” to “not be more than 110% of the cost price to FAC”

6.16 Add “Other than microlight or helicopter training/hiring, the licensee shall be granted the exclusive right to provide fixed wing training and aircraft hire at Fenland Airfield.”

8.3 Add “subject to AGM or EGM approval”

A discussion followed. BC said that although FFS are at Fenland six days a week, as part of a 6.16 clause he would like to see a minimum contracted instructional hours documented. JH noted that the fuel markup to FFS had always been 18-20% prior to the recent discount funded by the Covid grant. DP asked what the pre-Covid profits from FFS were. **Action JH to report back the FFS fuel figures next month.**

14) AOB

None

The meeting closed at 20:11.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 13 January 2022 18:00