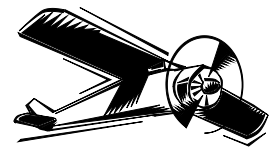


FENLAND AERO CLUB – Management Team

Fenland Airfield, Jekils Bank, Holbeach St Johns Spalding, PE12 8RQ
EGCL / Tel: 01406 - 540330 / Email: secretary@fenlandairfield.co.uk



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB COMMITTEE

Present:	David Petters (DP), Jeff Helm (JH), Rynardt Spies (RS), Phil Parsons (PS), Steve Brown (SB)
Others in Attendance:	Oliver Wheeldon

TUESDAY, 19 APRIL 2022 18:00

1) SAFETY MEETING

SB asked if the no parking sign on the fuel apron would be reinstated and when the fence will be finished. DP replied we will replace the sign with the other sign amendments and JH will follow up to ask for a date for fence installation.

DP reported an incident where a based aircraft and visiting aircraft attempted a landing on opposite runways on a Monday when the wind was calm. The visiting aircraft was not making radio calls and went around above the hangars very low level to join downwind RH 36. **Action DP to write a letter to the visiting pilot to remind him of the published Fenland procedures.**

DP asked if the grass cutter on Mondays was aware to keep out of the way of aircraft and whether he should have a radio. SB replied the airfield is closed on a Monday and the grass cutter does not have a radio, the AIP mentions grass cutting and that pilots operate on Mondays at their own risk.

Oliver asked the committee whether an event/safety organiser should be onsite for each event and that an event briefing should be published. JH replied that our own generic risk assessment already mandates an event organiser onsite.

Oliver stated that one of the recent CAA audit findings was that we aren't performing airfield checks twice a day as per CAP168. The daily log has been updated.

2) APOLOGIES:, Kerry Allen, Bradel Connolly, Crosby Johnson

3) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 17 March 2022 were approved.

4) CLUB ADMINISTRATION

JH welcomed new members Simon Lummis (flying), Myles Russell (flying), Wendy Davidson (flying), Susie Matson (social) and Kevin Mape (social). Renewals are current at 60%, this time last year was 70%, and our target is 80%. At least ten members who have hangarage have not renewed their membership.

The CAA (airfield licence) and Ofcom (radio licence) still have not issued the club invoices, which are now overdue.

The most recent 4k Covid grant which the club were previously rejected by SHDC, was subsequently approved and paid on March 31.

Oliver updated the committee on the CAA audit. Our new auditor is an ex Heathrow inspector and has reported what we believe to be a number of incorrect findings. For example there is no requirement for timed responses for IER. Simon Cooke will draft a statement to send to the CAA. Our hot fire training is overdue and Simon will take forward. The CAA auditor also questioned Simon's competence as an IER trainer, he will send his CV. The CAA asked us to perform a current airfield survey, JH had received a quote for £2560, this was approved. CAP168 states the LITAS approach lighting should be checked weekly, the CAA are happy for us to update the aerodrome manual to check the approach lights weekly only when night flying is taking place. The CAA also raised a non-compliant stop way and a non-compliant taxiway alongside 18/36, we will need to request a CAA exemption as it is not possible to narrow the existing taxiway. Finally it was noted the 36 numbers are faded, JH had received a quote for £280+materials to repaint all the numbers and arrows, this was approved.

JH presented the AGM 2022 timeline. The AGM will be on Wednesday June 29 according to the club rules. Members will need to be notified of the AGM on June 1, the detail will be finalised at the next committee meeting.

The next step in the Claire Buckley high court case will be a cost and time hearing between solicitors, scheduled for November 2022.

5) FINANCE

JH presented the end of year accounts showing a 5k profit. The draft accounts will be sent to our accountants for tidying up and returned mid-May. There is currently no budget for 2022/2023.

Action BC to draft a 2022/2023 budget.

6) FUEL

Our most recent 100LL order is +16.5ppl+vat. JH asked if the 4k covid grant could be used to offset the latest price increase to members, whilst passing on the 16.5ppl increase to non-members. This is likely to cost £1k per month in subsidy. We should promote this to members to encourage cheaper flying at Fenland, having some of the cheapest fuel in the country.

7) SAFETY MATTERS

Oliver has reviewed the airside signage with Ray and a new hold has been proposed on the western taxiway abeam Alpha, for a direct 18/36 runway crossing. The signage is also being reviewed against CAP168.

8) AIRFIELD GENERAL

David reported that Michael Humprey has kindly sprayed weedkiller on the 08/26 markings. Michael also suggested the club should purchase a Martin Lishman mini sprayer which could sit on the back of the fire truck, rather than the current backpack. There may be a qualification required to spray legally, this should be investigated.

More airfield storage is required and we should research buying a container, with landlord permission.

Jim and Carole had emailed the committee requesting permission to bring both gyro and flex wing training to Fenland, using their own aircraft. In the future they would like to investigate electric aircraft at Fenland. The committee would be very supportive of gyro and flex wing training and DP will write back to Jim and Carole to arrange a meeting to discuss the technicalities.

Oliver asked if the club could promote visitors to the airfield during the week, in order to provide sufficient trade for the restaurant to be open Tuesday to Sunday. One option might be to increase the landing fee to £10 at weekend and offer free landing fees during weekdays. We could also promote Fenland for cross country land away students from other airfields. JH noted that 26 pilots took up the Fenland free landing voucher in April, through the Flyer magazine.

Oliver has also joined the AOG, a group of small airfields, who have quarterly meetings to share ideas and issues.

Our fixed price electricity contract ends at the end of the month and we will move to a variable tariff. This will at least double our electricity costs for next year and a new fixed rate contract should be investigated.

9) IER/RFFS

JH reported that the main foam tank on the fire truck does not have a current certificate of conformity but will be used up by hot fire training.

10) HANGARS

RS will request the flex wing in Bay 8 is moved to the Nissen hangar now that a space is available, to keep the flex wings together.

11) EVENTS

JH had received no response to our request for a member to lead on the 2022 Wings and Wheels event. Oliver replied he is happy to help with the airside operations. If Wings and Wheels is to go ahead, we need a lead by the next meeting.

JH asked if the airfield is open or closed on bank holiday Mondays. We usually have the tower manned on bank holiday Mondays, but there is no formal procedure for opening. It was agreed to treat a bank holiday Monday as a weekend day, and anyone not in attendance will need to delegate their duties.

Mr Wright's evening car event will recommence the third Wednesday of May.

12) FENLAND FLYING SCHOOL

Angelo had written to the committee regarding an incident in the flying school in front of a prospective group member. Steve replied that if Angelo is running a non-equity group then it is effectively an aircraft rental business and should be maintained differently and require a licence/agreement to operate from Fenland. Changing the group to a shareholder equity group would remove the problem. A discussion followed. SB said it was also feasible to put Angelo's plane under the FFS DTO similar to the Chipmunk. **Action DP to reply to Angelo.**

SB asked for the following statement to be minuted. "We at Fenland Flying School are most gratified that the Fenland Aero Club general membership voted to retain us at the airfield and that the 136-page investigative report exonerated us of any wrong-doing. However, the staff at FFS are very disappointed that the Wrights haven't retracted their libellous allegations that they saw fit to publish in the form of a letter to the membership and the wider public. They have been asked to produce clear evidence to support the allegations made, but have failed, unsurprisingly, to do so, because they merely repeated uncorroborated hearsay without checking their facts. We would have thought that in the interests of promoting harmony and reconciliation, a retraction and

apology would have been the correct course of action, thus enabling us all to move forward for the benefit and future prospects of the airfield and all those that use it.”

SB noted the bins overflowing in front of the clubhouse at the weekend.

13) RUNWAYS RESTAURANT

A sample of two new chairs were delivered to the clubhouse. These appear to be suitable and value for money. **Action BC to follow up with Kerry on the tables and chairs purchase.**

14) AOB

There was no AOB.

The meeting closed at 20:30.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19 May 2022 18:00