

FENLAND AERO CLUB Committee

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 THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023 18.00

Present:	Jeff Helm (JH), Steve Brown (SB), Colin Albone (CA), Dave Capon (DC), Kerry Goundry, Robin Hoile (RH), Rynardt Spies (RS), Braden Connolly (BC), Ziggy Krasa (KK)
Remote:	None
Others in attendance:	John Wright Joey Connolly

AGENDA OF THE SAFETY MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023

SB confirmed nothing to report.

AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023

2) Apologies

David Petters (BC to chair the meeting)

Graham Kiddy

Peter Begley

3) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes signed off as a true and accurate record.

4) Matters arising

JH asked to minute that there was no meeting in April due to not being quorate.

JH reported that the gas repairs and safety check will be completed next week.

JH confirmed that the concrete repairs on the AVGAS fuel apron were now complete.

5) Club administration (Secretary)

a) New Members

JH confirmed 12 new members: Sam Raby, Steve Munday, Diane Curtis, Martin McNamara, Ellie Brown-Ahern, Chris Chandler, Noel Townsend, Tim Gilbert, Scott Green, David Windsor, Dave Poole and Callum Dodds. BC asked if the membership referral scheme was being used, JH responded the only referrals were from the flying school.

b) Membership renewals update

JH reported that the renewal rate was currently just over 75% which is normal for this time of year. Membership income is all on par. SB commented that the increase in landing fees has made the associate membership more cost effective to visitors.

c) AGM

JH presented the AGM timeline. It was agreed that the meeting would follow the same hybrid format as previously, with electronic voting after the meeting before the final results emailed to members on the Sunday morning. JH reminded the committee for those that need to present reports.

6) Finance (Treasurer)

BC presented the AGM accounts. The lack of Covid grants were the single biggest difference. More fuel was sold but as a lesser margin. Energy costs have increased significantly. This has led to a deficit of 28k for the year. The detail will be presented to the members at the AGM.

7) Fuel (Fuel Manager)

JH had been contacted from Puma to set up an AVGAS account as an alternative supplier, there were no objections.

JH is having continued difficulties getting hold of more fuel discount cards from Tokheim. BC suggested an alternative solution of putting a key safe and card in the fuel shed if we cannot get hold of new cards.

8) Safety matters

A complaint had been received along with two statements, concerning the conduct of another member. Joey Connolly, Kerry Goundry and John Wright were asked to leave the meeting temporarily. A lengthy discussion followed and in conclusion the committee deemed that the complaint was best dealt with in an informal way, which had already been actioned.

9) Airfield general (Airside/non airside Manager)

a) Letters from Landlord

JH had received two letters from our landlords. The key points were:

- Sheeting at the back of bay 7. JH confirmed this was just dirt and could easily be cleaned up. **Action ZK to arrange cleaning with a pressure washer.**
- The roofs of bay 1-8 require cleaning. **Action ZK to inspect.**
- The airside barrier is in the wrong location. A discussion followed, no action required.
- The classic car event occasionally conflicts with ground school. A discussion followed, the classic car event will be moved to the third Thursday of each month.

b) Border Force renewal

Our CoA expires at the end of 2023. JH had shared the CoA renewal application with the committee, based on previous applications. There were no objections, JH will submit this to Border Force.

10) Accountable Manager

OW reported on the recent CAA desktop audit. All previous findings have been closed other than two, one being a form of the metrics of the runway still to be completed, the second being the non-compliant taxiway. An exception with mitigating circumstances is an option from the CAA unless we can resolve the problem another way. OW raised concerns that as accountable manager he would be liable for the exception should anything go wrong.

Action OW/SB/DP/JH to meet to discuss options for the non-compliant taxiway.

11) IER/RFFS (IER Manager)

JH reported that we have 4 new volunteers. There is a need for training for the new recruits and existing crew, JH has been trying to find a first aid training supplier. Previously we have only paid £35 per person. The fire truck is running much better.

12) Hangars

JH reported one space in the new hangars, although this has likely been offered to the next person on the waiting list.

13) Events (Event Manager)

a) Wings and Wheels

CA stated that he had been accused of rule breaking and that he would like an apology, there have been no subcommittee meetings yet to minute. There had been some discussions and concerns outside meetings concerning the club running their own BBQ, which had caused upset between CA and KG. JH had noted concerns regarding food safety and insurance if we

ran our own BBQ. KG had offered the club a profit share but CA had suggested a team to provide a BBQ. It was agreed to draw a line under the debate to get W&W back on track.

A discussion followed on whether the committee WhatsApp group should continue or not.

A group of people had offered to help run W&W, after running similar events at other airfields. BC suggested the subcommittee hold an official meeting to discuss the options.

b) Vintage Air Tour

A group of vintage pilots on tour will be visiting Fenland on June 22 and had asked the committee for landing fee concessions. It was agreed the tour would be welcome but that we could not provide concessions.

c) Anonymous cash prizes

JH had been contacted by a member wishing to remain anonymous to donate cash prizes for two summer events. One event would be a spot landing competition with a £250 first prize, £100 for highest scoring Chipmunk, £100 for highest scoring Tiger Moth, no landing fee but an entry fee to raise money for the club. The second event would be a breakfast patrol with an expense limit of £250, again there be no landing fee but an entry fee.

Action SB/CA to plan the events, write the rules and report back through JH to the anonymous donor.

d) Addenbrookes family day

JH had been contacted by Addenbrookes hospital requesting a repeat of a family day out at Fenland in the summer holidays where member pilots take cancer patients and their families flying. BC suggested that we turn this into annual flying day in respect of Phil, who was diagnosed at Addenbrookes.

Action JH to respond to Addenbrookes to suggest a day for the event and then we should ask members to help. DC to talk to Phil's family.

e) Other events

JH asked for a committee representative to be present for the VAC event, DC agreed and JH would also be there in the am.

14) Fenland Flying School (Steve Brown)

SB noted that the emergency contact details on the clubhouse front door need updating. SB asked the committee what we had planned for the long grass on the eastern side of 18/36, it was agreed to give the grass a trim but keep it long to stop pilots using it as a taxiway.

SB asked for an update on the G-SAPI flying group. BC has sent a letter to the group.

SB asked the committee to ensure members with unsatisfactory conduct at the previous AGM had been written to. BC thought they had but will check.

15) Runways Restaurant

None

16) Questions from attendees

John Wright noted that the shipping container by the new hangars was on his land, and referenced a diagram. BC responded that the lease agreement has a diagram which clearly shows the shipping container on land that FAC lease, and that FAC are receiving rent for occupancy. JH showed John Wright the diagram in the airfield lease and BC suggested he take legal advice if he thinks the lease diagram is wrong.

John Wright stated he will be holding an Auto Jumble on his land one Saturday by the Air Ambulance landing point, it will be NOTAMed accordingly.

17) AOB

None

18) Date of next meeting

AGM – Wednesday June 28 @ 7.30pm