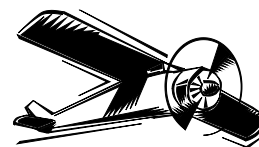


FENLAND AERO CLUB – Committee

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

Present:	Braden Connolly (BC), Steve Brown (SB), Lisa Brian (LB), Josh Brown (JB)
Remote:	Colin Albone (CA), Peter Suckow (PS)
Apologies:	Pete Begley, Karolina Wroblewska, Oliver Wheeldon

Thursday, 25 January 2024 18:30

AGENDA OF THE SAFETY MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB

1. Safety matters

Nothing to report.

AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB

1. Apologies

BC shared apologies from PB, KW, and OW.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as true and accurate by BC.

3. Matters arising

CA queried whether we should send Rex a copy of the minutes given the outcome of the previous meeting; however, it was decided that since the minutes would be posted on the board immediately following the meeting, and that Rex wasn't present at the previous meeting that there was no reason to share ahead of time or delay sharing with members to do so.

4. Club Administration

a. Update on case involving Claire Buckley

JB shared an update forwarded to him from Jeff Helm regarding the Claire Buckley

case.

Last October, Claire Buckley wrote to the 2020/21 FAC Management Team to withdraw her claim. As of the 15th of January, that management team has received the civil court order, concluding the matter as now closed.

Action: RS to contact insurers / insurance broker to update them with the news.

b. National Grid Consultation

JB shared news of the National Grid Consultation involving the possibility of 50-meter-high pylons to the north-east just inside the bounds of the ATZ.

Action: JB to contact relevant parties to ensure we are subscribed to updates on the consultation.

c. Phone Systems

LB raised concerns regarding the phone lines, sharing that people often can't get through or call to the wrong place. JB added that phone systems have been a concern for a while since we are out of contract. BC added that a main driver has been what we are paying for our broadband.

The committee discussed consolidating internet line and investigating VOIP solutions.

Action: BC to investigate how current systems work by asking Jeff, and then speaking to Tokheim about broadband requirements for fuel, to see if we can move it over to Starlink.

5. Memberships

LB shared that we have two new flying members, two new social members.

a. Structure of Social Memberships

LB then raised an issue regarding the current social membership structure highlighted by the two new social members that they had seen the poster in the clubhouse regarding £30 for a year's membership.

Currently, social memberships are not done on a pro-rata basis because the amount becomes too small at the end of the year. So new social members would be paying £30 to be a member for less than three months.

Decision: The committee discussed several options and decided on the following: Social memberships are now pro-rata (like all other membership levels). New members joining after Christmas will have the option of paying for their membership next year ahead of time.

6. Finance

RS shared that he had not yet received any figures from the bookkeeper for the month but would chase for an update and forward on when he had received them.

7. Fuel

BC shared that he expected minimal fuel sales since the last meeting due to recently closures. However, he has ordered Jet A1 that will be coming in the next week.

The committee discussed arranging someone to be available to receive the fuel, it was agreed that it would be shared in WhatsApp when Puma gave a time estimate and someone would be available.

LB queried the possibility of being added to the WhatsApp, everyone agreed that it made sense given her role supporting the committee as membership secretary.

Action: BC to add LB to the WhatsApp group.

8. Safety matters

Nothing to report.

9. Airfield general

RS has been looking at getting some white snowy artificial grass for the markers, but it has been proving more difficult than originally thought. The main problem has been a lack of stock and finding a good price. RS raised that we may have to consider getting a bucket of paint out in the meantime.

BC shared that he had acquired some small squidgy plastic cones for temporarily delineating the taxiway should we need them.

10. Accountable manager

BC shared an update from a meeting that morning with the CAA regarding the taxiways. We were originally working on the basis that our taxiway needed to be 30 meters from the centre line of the runway. So therefore 15 meters from the edge of the runway in our case. Which would have put the taxiway right up against the ditch. However, they have now informed us that because the width of our runway is more than 10% greater than the minimum width, that needs to now be 22 meters rather than 15 meters. However, we have been informed the CAA would accept the 15-meter offset as a variation and we could submit it as a variation, together with our own risk assessment and mitigations.

In order to get the variation accepted it was noted we would be required to caution pilots about using the taxiway while the runway is in use, or using the runway while the taxiway was in use. Not a ban on it, but a caution as a mitigating factor.

BC highlighted that another issue raised by the CAA regarding crop height at the end of runway 18 should be mitigated by a letter that SB has secured from the farmer stating he has no intention to grow tall crops there.

BC added that OW is happy to sign this variation, and CAA seem like they're going to be happy to approve this variation. If we agree to this then we need to put a note out to members and pilots to say the taxiways will be moving and there's going to be yellow cones, there and in time it will be a grass strip.

Actions:

BC and OW to progress application for variation.

SB to inform grass cutter of changes to avoid mowing between cones once they are placed down.

11. IER/RFFS

PS shared an update regarding the current IER team, currently consisting of 11/12 volunteers. One has recently left due to work commitments, though a new guy is coming soon to do spend a session with PS.

PS shared that we have enough to get a reasonable rota, but we're probably still short about three or four people. PS feels we need at least 16 people.

PS shared that we did have a hot fire training the prior weekend and managed to get 11 people to attend which went well. Biggest problem is getting people to keep interested in things to do and getting people on a regular basis.

PS queried JB regarding the purchase of some foam and CO2. JB updated that he was now in contact with both a supplier for the foam and Bond Fire Services for the CO2, though needed clarification on what was exactly needed for the CO2.

BC proposed having a conversation with Karolina to see if she's willing to have any of the catering staff trained to stand by there as it would provide benefits both to the club and to Runways as they'll always have someone first aid trained as well in case anything happens.

JB raised an idea that was mentioned regarding having a prepaid debit card available for the IER team to use that we can set a limit on for use for things like the foam, and other items. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, but we would need to consider what budget it came from.

Action: PS to send photo of CO2 to JB, to pass on to Bond Fire Services

12. Hangars

BC raised an issue regarding an aircraft based in the old hangar where the original owner had passed away in 2018 but payments had continued however since the prices changed last year the account has now fallen into arrears. Mel has written to the address on account and received a response from the previous owner's business partner who shared that the aeroplane is now owned by the brother. The business partner has tried to express an interest in purchasing the aeroplane however the brother hasn't spoken or returned any messages despite having been contacted several times over the last six years.

Mel has drafted a letter to the brother, but we may need to decide what to do should the new owner not respond to us. But the first step of the process will be to send the letter and then we can decide.

BC also brought attention to the storm damage on hangar 8, which Frosts have agreed to repair. It was confirmed that it didn't appear as though there was any forced entry, and it was just storm damage. One of the panels of the hangar door had been blown off.

13. Events

BC raised that we likely need to put Wings and Wheels on our next meeting to ensure we're working out how we're getting that covered.

BC also shared that Flying Reporter had been in contact with plans to visit during March as part of a "12 airfields in 12 hours" dawn-till-dusk challenge. He wants to be at Fenland early in the morning so he will mention it to Karolina in case any of his followers wish to turn up. He intends to be here less than half an hour so BC suggested we have him park near the fuel apron and greet any followers from there.

BC noted this was in addition to the video for Fenland, though we would need to get 08/26 back in use and then schedule a date for him to come once the runways are back in operation.

JB shared that David from the British Aerobatics had expressed their interest in running an event in July but they haven't yet got a clear idea of what they want to do, but had concerned things like a fly-in, perhaps with some judged aerobatic flights. They have asked whether we had any ideas. This would be in addition to the aerobatics weekend scheduled in May. BC suggested we invite them for a fly-in for aerobatic types, and if they can stage some sort of competition then that would be good.

14. Fenland Flying School

SB raised that moles seem to be a problem now. BC shared that we no longer have a pest controller, we used to have someone come but they have since retired and no longer doing it.

Action: BC to find a pest controller for hangars and moles.

15. Runways Restaurant

Karolina had sent her apologies and was unable to attend the meeting. However, it was raised that a couple of members had commented about the lunchtime menu and the lack of sandwiches and lighter bites at lunchtime. Some other members had noted that the restaurant had been closed early on occasion. On a positive note, BC had heard from someone about a chicken pie he had eaten which he was blown away by, so there was some good feedback on the quality of the food being served.

Action: BC to meet with Karolina to discuss feedback

16. Questions from attendees and AOB

LB queried the status of the tower. BC updated that he had messaged the tower group informing them to catch up on shifts, and if they don't want to catch up then sort out a pro-rata payback or a full refund. BC proposed meeting with LB to go over the list.

Action: BC to meet with LB to go over tower list rota to pull together a list of who is behind.

17. Date of next meeting

Action: BC to propose some dates in WhatsApp as usual.

18. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 19:40