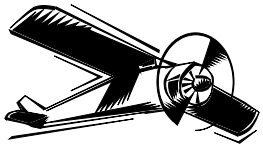
FENLAND AERO CLUB

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FENLAND AERO CLUB COMMITTEE

Present:	Colin Albone (CA), Heidi Barrett (HB), Josh Brown (JB), Steve Brown (SB), Jeff Helm (JH)
Others in Attendance:	Lisa Brian (LB), Simon Cooke (SC), Lee Dickins (LD), Tim Dighton (TD), Annette McCarthy (AMC), Steve McCarthy (SMC)

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2026 @ 18:30

1) **APOLOGIES:** Pete Begley (PB), Andy Blewett (AB), Ziggy Krasa (ZK)

2) **SAFETY MEETING (chaired by CFI - safety forms and safety issues)**

SB reported several cracks on the runways, the worst being east of the 08 numbers on the centreline. **Action ALL to fill the deep holes asap.**

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 16 July were approved.

4) **UPDATES ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

JH checked the rules and there is no current rule requiring based aircraft to have radios, other than PPR.

All CAA audit actions have been closed.

5) **CLUB ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

No update.

6) **FINANCE**

JB noted a cash balance of £78k.

JB has received the insurance renewal at £21,931, which is slightly reduced from last year. This was agreed.

7) **FUEL**

We have had a new fuel delivery, although it is 3ppl more. JH recommended keeping the retail prices the same.

Octane visited to produce a formal quote of £20,160, which includes the first year's maintenance. To stay with Tokheim it will cost us £2,195 annual maintenance, £4,747 to allow our old broadband lines to be retired, and £3,002 to upgrade from Windows XP. The new system will support Apple and Google Pay, individual discount cards and better reporting and stock control, and is fully compatible with our existing pumps. We have had the Tokheim system installed for 30 years. LB noted that she wasn't sure if members were fully aware of all the problems we have with Tokheim and the numerous failed service visits.

CA asked if the club had the funds to purchase a new system. JH replied that we have previously had to buy £20k of Jet A1, but that is no longer the case with our partnership with Tactifil. JB noted we have sufficient savings.

Rule 5.18 gives the committee authorisation to spend up to £7,500 (excluding general maintenance and fuel purchases) and therefore we should seek membership approval. Various options were discussed, including an EGM. It was unanimously agreed to write to the members and include an electronic vote. **Action JH to write to all members and progress an online vote.**

JB reported that the plastic drain on the avgas apron has come loose. **Action LD to investigate.**

8) FENLAND AERO SERVICES

We are contemplating a concrete pad to allow military movements during the winter when the ground is softer. JH had spoken to a Chinook crew and they would be happy with using a concrete pad between the Jet A1 tank and the road. A ball-park figure would be £10k. Further investigation is needed. **Action ZK to request permission from the landlords to install a concrete pad.**

We have been given a quote of £3,750 from our accountants to write a trust deed for Fenland Aero Services Ltd in order to have the shareholders in trust. This is too expensive, so we will seek an alternative solution.

Fuel sales have been steady. This month we had a single Chinook that uplifted 4,700 litres, giving a commission of nearly £1,000 from a single refuel. We also had a failed formation Chinook refuel, as they did not turn up even after we had moved a second Tactifil truck to Fenland to facilitate it, and we had to absorb half the transport costs.

9) AIRSIDE AND ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER

SC noted an increased fire risk at Wings and Wheels with the lack of rain and dry grass. Robert Laming has kindly agreed to provide a 10,000-litre water bowser with a tractor onsite for the day. JB has added this to the event risk assessment.

10) IER/RFFS AND A/G RADIO

JH has created a fire truck maintenance and inspection spreadsheet to provide future evidence of known faults and rectifications.

JH noted the annual fire extinguisher service is due. **Action SC to contact Bond Fire to schedule the annual service.**

11) NON-AIRSIDE

JB has installed two more CCTV cameras at the back of the clubhouse, giving us six cameras on the new system.

12) HANGARS

JH noted that PB had emailed everyone on the hangar waiting list to see if a space was still required.

13) EVENTS

HB reported that the Rallye rally went really well and they thanked us for the use of the marquee.

The 80s night was a good night but not many tickets were sold. It was disappointing that members seemed keen to attend but didn't.

Six people attended our first spotters night and enjoyed seeing a Chinook land for fuel. The attendees would like it to be a regular event.

Although there were not many attendees, the first LAFs (Lady Aviators of Fenland) gathering will have an editorial in the local newspaper.

The club has been approached by a photographer to put photos in the clubhouse for sale, on a commission basis for the club.

Wings and Wheels 2026 is fully planned. The tower will keep pilots out of the ATZ for the BBMF flypast.

14) FENLAND FLYING SCHOOL

LB welcomed Jon Higgins to the flying school as a new instructor.

The grass will be cut next week, ready for Wings and Wheels.

15) RUNWAYS CAFE

AB had provided some costs for vending machine rental, but JB thought it best to buy. JH had seen AI vending machines where you just tap your card, the doors open, and cameras note what you have purchased. The foyer really needs to be open on Mondays and Tuesdays for it to be financially viable, or the vending machine needs to be outside. SB noted that a mini fridge and honesty box could still be an option. **Action ALL to investigate further with new and used options.**

AMC noted the padlock on the bins was broken. **Action JH to replace the bin padlock.**

LB has organised the Fenland Flying School Christmas quiz and Runways will provide the catering.

JB suggested that we could combine a Christmas fly-in with a Christmas festive market over a couple of weekends.

16) QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES AND AOB

No update.

The meeting closed at 19:50. Date of next meeting 28 October 2026.