# FENLAND AERO CLUB

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

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| **Present:** | Colin Albone (CA), Pete Begley (PB), Josh Brown (JB), Steve Brown (SB), Jeff Helm (JH), Ziggy Krasa (ZK) |
| **Others in Attendance:** | Lisa Brian (LB), Tim Dighton (TD) |

## WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2026 @ 18:30

1) **APOLOGIES:** Heidi Barrett (HB), Andy Blewett (AB), Annette McCarthy (AMC), Steve McCarthy (SMC)

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

SB reported more rabbit holes than usual across the whole airfield. **Action JH to get in touch with our pest control contractors.**

It was reported that the ground had sunk by the 26 numbers, leading to a small gap. Within minutes TD had filed down the concrete and LD had backfilled the soil.

On 17 October a visiting pilot broke his propeller on the ground during the landing roll. The aircraft was kept safe in the old hangar and removed a few days later. We received a subsequent message from the pilot thanking everyone for their help.

JH reminded everyone that safety forms should be created for all incidents on the airfield and include the runway in use, weather conditions etc. This provides a formal record should there be any further investigations.

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 19 August were approved.

4) **CLUB ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

JH explained how AI is now used to save the Secretary and Treasurer time. Claude produces the agendas and minutes from the committee's task lists and finance reports, and runs scheduled tasks that pass genuine supplier bills to Xero and record Square card membership and hangarage

invoices and payments. All of it is checked by a person: unusual items are held for Jeff, and AI never pays a bill or handles passwords.

Current members 234. Welcome to new members Daniel Akulininas (flying), Peter Best (flying), Heather Best (social), Oliver Gray (flying), Daniel Zaronas (flying), Robert Prokofiev (flying), Phil Scarborough (flying), Jeremy Harvey (flying), Jack Gower (flying), Tom Armstrong (flying), Tom Grundy (flying), Sam White (flying) and Amin Narimani (flying).

**5) FINANCE**

The FAC position from Xero: bank balances total £65,224.45 (HSBC Charitable £22,465.68 and HSBC BMM Account #1 £42,758.77). Turnover to date is £193,723.17 and profit to date £16,767.14. The estimated end of year profit based on budget outgoings is £13,678.42. JH reported that the bank balance includes a recent fuel purchase and the 50% payment for the new fuel payment system.

JB proposed that we move our savings account from HSBC (earning 1.28% interest) to a higher-interest instant access account, such as Saffron Building Society, where we could earn 4%. On £40,000 this would give the club another £1,000 of income per year. This was agreed. **Action JB to confirm the best instant access account and move the savings.**

**6) FUEL**

JH reported the outcome of the online vote on the new payment terminal: 90 votes tallied and 1 abstention. Yes, I APPROVE = 89 votes (99%); No, I REJECT = 1 vote (1%).

Our recent avgas delivery was 20ppl more expensive than the previous one, so pump prices have been increased. Only 10,000L was ordered in case of a future price drop, so we will need to place another order before the end of the year.

JH has ordered the new fuel payment system, with installation hopefully before Christmas. The router will be delivered next week to test connectivity. **Action JB to review and approve the new card merchant provider Windcave's fees and complete the online signup.**

The Tokheim system is intermittently failing to read discount cards again, but JH will process discounts manually on request.

JH asked whether the new system's discount cards should be distributed per person or per aircraft. A discussion followed: fewer cards would be easier to manage, although cards would need to be secured in aircraft. It was agreed to defer the decision until we understand which

option gives the best reporting from the new system. A member had asked whether fuel could be purchased on credit; it was confirmed there would be no credit accounts.

**7) FENLAND AERO SERVICES**

JH reported nearly 10,000L of Jet A1 sales in October including 2 Chinooks, just short of £2,000 commission. National Grid fuelled 5 times. They enquired about rotors-running refuels on their EC135s and will send JH all their processes and risk assessments for review before any approval is given. If approved, only FAS staff on the authorised fueller list should be allowed.

The Fenland Aero Services position from Xero: turnover to date is £11,888.88 and operating profit year to date is £7,653.93. At the end of the financial year, all FAS profit will be donated back to FAC to avoid corporation tax.

**8) AIRSIDE AND ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER**

The flying school has 5 or 6 students lined up to get night ratings this winter. New guidelines state the rating has to be completed within 6 months. Several of the runway lights are broken. **Action ZK and LD to investigate and replace the broken lights.**

SC had revised the Aerodrome Manual to resolve inconsistent formatting and make minor corrections. **Action JH to send it to all the committee, who should report any issues.**

**9) IER/RFFS AND A/G RADIO**

It was reported that fumes in the fire truck made a member of FFS unwell. Same-day investigation revealed a hole in the front Y-piece of the exhaust directly under the passenger seat; additionally, the passenger seat battery cover was not correctly fitted. Immediate mitigation was quarantining the truck. Secondary mitigation was applying exhaust repair tape and installing a CO detector in the cabin, allowing the truck to be used and monitored. The new exhaust part has arrived this week and will be fitted shortly. The fuel truck also now has a CO detector installed. **Action LD to fit the new exhaust Y-piece.**

**10) NON-AIRSIDE**

No update.

**11) HANGARS**

PB reported a number of internal movements between hangars. The new hangar is full and there are a couple of spaces in the old hangar, pending confirmations from the top of the waiting list, which remains strong. Late payers have been chased before further action.

**12) EVENTS**

The marquee needs taking down for winter. There was some minor damage caused by the recent gales, but it is repairable. CA offered to help take the marquee down. **Action JB and LD to assess the marquee damage and any repairs before organising taking it down.**

We have been contacted by British Young Pilots (BYP), an organisation that introduces young people aged 10–17 to aviation through simulator flying, navigation, weather, aircraft systems and aviation theory in structured classroom sessions designed for beginners and aspiring future pilots, with a view to Fenland being a teaching site for them. HB has had a call with BYP: they would run evening and/or weekend clubs with 8–12 children at a time. The club would be paid for use of the site and the flying school would be used for experience flights. The committee were in favour of BYP running sessions at the airfield from January 2027 and had no concerns. JB noted that in time the portacabin would benefit from some investment for refurbishment. **Action HB to confirm to BYP that the committee is happy to proceed.**

The line dancing evening in the clubhouse is on Thursday 29 October. A troupe of line dancers are attending!

The pumpkin fly-in is on Saturday 31 October, and any pilot flying in will receive a Fenland mug. Pilots have been asked to bring a cuddly toy for Santa to re-home at the Christmas fly-in.

A few different weekends were suggested for the Christmas fly-in. No conflicts were known. JH also suggested a possible fly-out to Le Touquet in December to visit the Christmas market, if weather permits. **Action HB to fix the date for the Christmas fly-in.**

A SkyDemon evening is being planned for early 2027.

Wings and Wheels 2027 will go ahead on the same weekend as this year. **Action HB to complete the RAF fly-past application.**

A potential FAC 55th anniversary fly-in and dinner in 2027 was discussed. There were no objections.

**13) FENLAND FLYING SCHOOL**

No update.

**14) RUNWAYS CAFE**

Christmas Market: it was agreed to close this off, as it is now a bit late to organise.

We have received a few complaints about potholes in the car park. JH commented that it has been a long time since we last had a gravel delivery. TD replied that the area needs raking, as any filling of holes will be temporary, and he is happy to have a try. **Action TD to investigate the potholes. Action JH to get a quote for bulk gravel if needed.**

The carpet is about 15 years old and very dirty. The cafe had enquired about a professional clean or replacement. A discussion followed; it was felt a professional clean is unlikely to give the outcome required. There are also dips in the floor that need levelling. **Action JB to get quotes for both a professional clean and replacement flooring.**

The signs at the entrance are outdated and one is ripped. The frames and lights are in good condition, so we just need new signs at minimal cost. **Action AB to suggest a new design for the entrance signs.**

The cafe would like the clubhouse to be more welcoming to families, especially during winter, and would like the club to buy a plane-shaped activity board, a couple of bean bags and a small table, with costs not exceeding £250. This was provisionally agreed. **Action JB to discuss the location and layout with AB.**

From next month the cafe will introduce a specials board with meals such as chillis, curries and stews, on rotation, to keep people warm through winter.

The cafe will be closed for Christmas from 24 December to 6 January. Fenland Flying School will re-open on 2 January.

**15) QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES AND AOB**

ZK presented a 1m x 1m sample of a white plastic heavy-duty runway marker plate from Poland. Fitting these would avoid the faded runway edge markers that require continual chalk. Most of our runway edge markers are 2m x 1m, so we would require around 100 plates for both runways at a cost of approximately £5,000 including delivery. If we go ahead, we will need to relocate some of the existing edge markers because of misshapen and misaligned ones. **Action ZK to lead a group to fit the sample plate to a high-traffic area near the fuel apron to check longevity. Action SC to review the 08/26 runway layout in terms of width etc.**

The meeting closed at 20:02. Date of next meeting TBC.