

BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH 2018 IN THE YATELEY VILLAGE HALL, YATELEY

Present:

Mr M Pearson	Chair [MP]
Mr C Hawkins	Vice Chair [CH]
Cllr T Spencer	Yateley Town Council [TS]
Chris Gazzard	Blackbushe Airport [CG]
Cllr R Harward	Hart District Council [RH]
Cllr S Davenport	Sandhurst Town Council [SD]
Cllr L Corps	Rushmoor District Council [LC]
Cllr C Edge	Eversley Parish Council [CE] (arrived at 19:45)
Mr J Cowley	Yateley Society [JC]
Mr M Miller-Smith	User Group Representative [MM-S]
Ms J Edmonds	Blackbushe Airport [JEd]
Mr J Ellis	Secretary [JE]

		Action required by
1	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER</p> <p>1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr D Simpson, Cllr S Warren, Cllr G Cripps, Cllr T Hunt, Ms J Biscoombe and A Hocking</p> <p>1.2 The Chair welcomed Mr Miller-Smith and said it was nice to have Users represented.</p>	
2	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER 2017</p> <p>2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2017 were agreed as a true record, subject to the inclusion of Cllrs Corps and Spencer being shown as present, both attend the meeting but could not get to the committee table due to the overcrowding of the room.</p> <p>Proposed by JC and seconded by TS.</p>	
3	<p>MATTERS ARISING HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER 2017</p> <p>4 THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Blackbushe Airport have now got a section on their website which has the committee papers on it.</p> <p>CG was thanked for producing such a comprehensive a written 'update' report.</p> <p>5 MONITORING OF COMPLAINTS</p> <p>The concern expressed by the chair at the last meeting had been addressed and a web-based reporting system has been introduced</p> <p>https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/aerodrome/</p> <p>6 GPS. APPROACH TO BLACKBUSHE</p> <p>Approval is still awaited, it is likely that approval for approaches from the west will be sought while additional work is required on the proposal for approaches from the east.</p> <p>7 YATELEY COMMON REMOVAL OF THE COMMON RIGHTS</p> <p>The application is now awaiting referral to the Planning Inspectorate which is delayed as the result of sickness council employee. CG indicated he may ask for an additional meeting of the committee when the timetable and further details were known.</p>	CG

	<p>The reason why the airport was seeking the removal was to allow it to ensure the viability of the airport in the long term, the current situation means that any work requires a number of approvals to be obtained even for the simplest of task.</p> <p>In response to a question about return the runway to the original length CG said that it was highly unlikely as the land that was previously the runway is now in the ownership of Hampshire County Council and the airport has no aspirations to extend the runway.</p> <p>RH hoped that it was possible to achieve the owners aim of ensuring a viable airport and the development it sought whilst still maintaining the protection of the Common rights</p> <p>9.QUESTION TIME</p> <p>Maritsa Singer question the committee had passed the question onto the airport as promised. CG informed the Committee that Ms. Singer had raised the same points at the meeting held by Hampshire County Council, where Cllr Simpson had indicated that the Land Registry was the body that recorded ownership of the land and any questions should be addressed.</p> <p>On the advice of their lawyers the airport had decided not to reply to Ms. Singer</p> <p>10.ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Concerns about the routing of Helicopters flying out of Blackbushe, this was seasonal CG said that the airport were looking at all operations to ensure that the minimum of disturbance was caused whilst operating in the most efficient way. The airport can only act on specific complaints and these should be reported as soon as possible using https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/aerodrome/</p>	
4	<p>REPORT OF AIRPORT MANAGER (including monitoring of complaints) [see Appendix A and B]</p> <p>4.1 The committee expressed its thanks to CG for presenting such a detailed report and considered it to be a positive set forward, also for closing out a number of longstanding items.</p> <p>4.2 Security was a major issue as the airport is limited to the amount of work it can do as the result of the status of the land as a common, they are considering using heavy rocks to limit vehicle access to the airfield from the north side to deter criminals</p> <p>4.3 He outlined the lost opportunity to generated income due to the attitude of Natural England. The committee hoped that a sensible approach could be established whilst allowing income generation in the protected area.</p> <p>4.4 MP said there was a parliamentary group that looking into ways to help small airports operate in a way that ensured their continuance.</p> <p>4.5 It was noted that Farnborough and Blackbushe airports were working together through their long-standing Letter of Agreement.</p>	
5	<p>BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT USERS' GROUP: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES</p> <p>5.1 M M-S reported there were no matters that he wished to bring to the committee's attention.</p> <p>5.2 Would welcome any of the Committee members to contact him and he would be more than happy to show them around Aerobility.</p>	
6	<p>QUESTION TIME</p> <p>6.1 Peter Brown asked a question about British Car Auctions proposal to remove common rights on some of their land. Whilst the matter was technically outside the remit CG said he understood it to be the old market site and BCA wanted to clear the situation with regards to the storage of cars.</p>	
7	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	

	<p>7.1 Airshow: RH said he was sorry to learn that the celebration last year was not financially successful but hoped consideration would be given to run a similar event again.</p> <p>CG said that some of the issues were the result of bad planning and also the Civil Aviation Authority's change of rules with regard to flying displays. He thought the event may be run in opposite years from Farnborough, but no decision has been made.</p> <p>7.2 Eversley Parish Council: CE reported that at the annual parish meeting he had asked if any of the members or public had any issues with the airport and was please to report there were none.</p>	
10	<p>FUTURE MEETING</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd October 2018 at 19.00 venue to be confirmed in Eversley.</p> <p>CE undertook to find a venue and inform JEd so she could be it</p> <p>Could any items for inclusion on the Agenda please be sent to me by 1st September 2018</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CE & JEd</p> <p>ALL</p>

John Ellis

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Secretary to the Consultative Committee

9th March 2018



Consultative Committee Update

1 March 2018

Business Performance Update

2017 had its positives and negatives

- ▶ BBS75 was well received; Revenue Grew; New management team in place
- ▶ BBS75 was not profitable; Fuel uplifts declined by 10%; Unable to capitalise on all filming opportunities
- ▶ Rental income fallen from £431k in 2013 to £126k in 2017 (-£305k) due to loss of 2 x Premier Hangars when airport was sold in 2015
- ▶ As a result, Blackbushe Airport continues to make a substantial loss each year

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Movements	45,925	45,902	46,149	43,871

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Movements (Jan)	2,203	2,618	2,560	1,996	1,632
Movements (Feb)	2,296	3,144	2,960	2,607	2,862 (to 26 Feb)

Blackbushe Airport Management Team



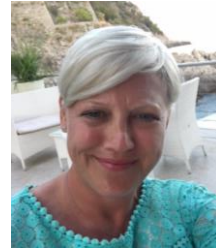
Cameron Ogden
Managing Director



Chris Gazzard
Airport Manager



Rebecca Cornthwaite
Finance & Business
Manager



Jan Edmonds
Facilities and Events Manager



Paul Knight
Tower Supervisor



Clare Silcock
Executive Assistant to MD &
HR Consultant



Gary Stedman
Senior Airport Fire Officer (SAFO)

Why do pilots choose Blackbushe?

Over the past 12 months, Blackbushe has lost 10 based GA aircraft to other aerodromes. In the past 6 months we have been doing some research into why our existing users stay with us, what drives them away, and what we can do to attract more based aircraft.

Why People Stay

- ▶ Location (proximity to home)
- ▶ Long, asphalt runway
- ▶ FISO Service
- ▶ Ability to operate during summer evenings
- ▶ Strong Aviation Community

What Drove Them Away

- ▶ Feeling that Blackbushe Airport was Anti-General Aviation
- ▶ Lack of Hangarage (especially in winter)
- ▶ Price of Fuel and Landings
- ▶ Poor Customer Service

What will Attract Them Back

- ▶ Competitive Pricing
- ▶ Temporary Hangars Short-term, Permanent ones in the long-term
- ▶ A focus on General Aviation as the core of the business
- ▶ On-site Maintenance

General Aviation represents 98% of our movements. 93% of movements are home-based aircraft, and 73% are from the 4 based flying schools. The typical individual based GA aircraft makes around 8-10 landings per month. The typical hangared aircraft makes 3-4 landings per month.

What about Business Aviation?

- ▶ Blink (the based jet operator) was sold to Wijet in October 2016. Landings at Blackbushe have fallen sharply under the new management, due in part to flying volume generally falling, but also due to pilot attitude towards Blackbushe
- ▶ Other operators cite three things they need to base an aircraft at, or visit Blackbushe:
 - ▶ An instrument approach for poor visibility conditions.
(currently in progress with our GPS Approach Application)
 - ▶ Hangarage for those looking to base aircraft here
(Temporary Hangars won't work for these aircraft, they need fully serviced permanent structures)
 - ▶ On-site maintenance facilities
(Several maintenance organisations would like to expand to Blackbushe, but again need fully serviced permanent structures)
- ▶ Business Aviation makes up 2% of movements. As with GA, the type of aircraft that make use of hangarage are those flown less frequently, and more susceptible to reliability issues if left outside

Initiatives for 2018

- ▶ Price List overhauled, making GA pricing more competitive
- ▶ New team in place in the tower, more customer-service focussed.
- ▶ Fuel Contract up for renewal in June, hoping to reduce fuel prices
- ▶ Permitted Development application in for more Temporary Hangars to stop exodus from Blackbushe
- ▶ Features in Flyer magazine, and free landing voucher offer during February brought over 50 visiting aircraft to Blackbushe
- ▶ Exploring plans for events:
 - ▶ Possible charity events such as a moonlight walk for Aerobility
 - ▶ In initial discussions regarding an open-air cinema in the summer to increase community engagement with Blackbushe

Update on Common Land Deregistration

- ▶ Application submitted October 2016
- ▶ Public Consultation 24th August – 8th October 2017
- ▶ Responses Received 21st December 2017
 - ▶ 103 Objections, 23 of which based on the application criteria
 - ▶ 10 Letters of Support
- ▶ Response from Blackbushe to HCC 1st February 2018
- ▶ Now waiting referral to Planning Inspectorate (PINS), but told this could be another 6-8 weeks delay due to staff sickness
- ▶ It's clear from the last consultation that residents were unclear on the area looking to be deregistered, and the reasons for doing so. If PINS require another consultation, we will be more active in explaining the benefits of a modern GA facility at Blackbushe for the local community

Action Points from Last Meeting

- ▶ Consultative Committee page now hosted on Blackbushe Airport website at:
<https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/consultative-committee/>
- ▶ We will be joined by a representative from Blackbushe Users. This will be Mike Miller-Smith, CEO of Aerobility. Going forward, this will rotate through users of the airport.
- ▶ We are in constant discussion with Phoenix Helicopters and other operators regarding their routings and pleased to report that with changes to their plans, no noise complaints received.
- ▶ We have improved relationships with surrounding airport operators, Farnborough, Odiham, Fair Oaks

Noise Complaints

- ▶ There was no formal process for recording these in the past. From 27th November we have introduced a new webform to capture these, and the Tower will record any telephone complaints on the same form.
- ▶ Since introduction, there have been 7 noise complaints.
- ▶ 3 from a gentleman in Mattingley regarding incidents on two days. Feedback from the complainant complimented the manner with which his complaint was dealt with.
- ▶ 3 were from users complaining about Police Helicopter activity on Christmas Eve, which was nothing to do with the airport.
- ▶ The other report was regarding a low flying aircraft, and a concern for the safety of the pilot and aircraft. Due to weather closing in, the pilot had found himself descending to avoid. Whilst the aircraft did not follow Blackbushe standard procedures, safety dictated allowing him to proceed and land safely.
- ▶ A full copy of complaints (with personal contact information redacted) is attached to this.

Submitted On	Name	Email Address	Telephone Number	Date	Time	Message	Reference Number	Further Information from Tower	Actions Taken
11/27/2017 11:39:33	Chris Gazzard			11/27/2017	11:39:00 AM	Stop flying your noisy planes!	2017001		This was a test of the form functionality
01/12/2017 15:04	Andrew Dunphy			12/01/2017	14:47	Complained about red/white aircraft, most likely GCIKS piloted by Mr Curry doing barrel rolls over complainants house. Second time this has happened.	2017002		Trying to contact pilot Mr Curry to discuss Noise Abatement
01/12/2017 15:47	Andrew Dunphy			12/01/2017	15:51	GCIKS again doing acrobatics over complainants farm for the second time in one day, spoke to Mr Dunphy who was very understanding. Ascertained that his house is inside the Noise Abatement Area and said I will have another word with Mr Curry and get back to him.	2017003	This will be the third noise complaint regarding this aircraft from the same individual	Have asked Mr Curry to contact tower over the radio so that I can discuss. Talked to Curry and have agreed that he will relocate his aerobatics to the north of Mattingley when ever practicable. PDK 01/12/2017, Have contacted Andrew Dunphy and have advised him of the action taken. Will follow up with an email. PDK 01/12/2017
12/3//2017 08:11	Stuart Hood			12/3	9:55	<p>Message: Dear BlackBushe</p> <p>Yesterday late pm just around 16:00 or so sorry did not note exact time a light aircraft passed our house at Wick Hill I'd think well below the 500 foot limit. I'm a student pilot and was surprised to see this SS the aircraft was within a couple of hundred feet of tree tops. There was low cloud and possibly the rising ground on Wick Hill caught the pilot out . The angle of the aircraft made it difficult for me to see reg but it's track was West to east tracking on what looked like a down wind circuit approach for Blackbushe although I have no way of knowing if that's where it actually went .</p> <p>Not complaining at all more concerned to know that the pilot made it to land safely and that they are made aware of how close they got to the trees on Wick Hill, if a VFR pilot perhaps they might do well to consider what they were doing and someone have a quiet word about their decision making and safety marginnormally is not bother but this just looked too close to me . Don't know if you can track back to this aircraft if not no worries but perhaps it might be mentioned in safety note to pilots about the rising ground around Wick Hill when there is low cloud</p> <p>Really hope alls well for the pilot , probably knows they were close , I don't mind being overflown as I am student pilot and love to see the aircraft but not if they look too close to be in trouble</p> <p>Many thanks</p> <p>Stuart</p>	2017004	Aircraft identified as GBNEE which landed at 15:58 on 2/12/2017. Aircraft from EGSX had made a weather diversion (intended destination EGLM) due to deteriorating weather conditions. Aircraft made call on right base for runway 25. It was too late to correct pilot, and it would have been hazardous to do so. The cloud base was around 600 feet AGL.	Email sent to Mr Hood explaining safety reasons for the flight operating as it did.
25/12/2017 09:45	George Keegan			25/12/2017	8:30	Can you tell me , why there were at least two helicopters flying at approx 2330 until well into Christmas day morning from your airport, totally illegal flight movements and bloody noisely.I will complaining to the CAA about this	2017005		Dear George, Thank you for your email.
25/12/2017 09:45	George Keegan			25/12/2017	9:45	There were two I helicopters flying above and around the airport at around 2330 hours on Christmas eve untill early Christmas day, why were they flying so late, clearly outside the airport permitted hours. What was going on , as was keep a wake!	2017006		There weren't any helicopters operating from Blackbushe yesterday afternoon - we closed about 13:00. I understand that there was a Police operation tracking poachers last night from Risley, ending up with arrests near Blackbushe. They may well have been using helicopters to track their targets.
05/01/2018 22:23:00	Joanna Arthy			24/12/2017	10:30:00 PM	Are you aware of plane circling on Dec 24 from 10.30 pm until 00. 20 am Dec 25 2017? Was this an emergency? Thank you very much.	2018/001		Dear Joanna, Thank you for your email. There weren't any aircraft operating from Blackbushe on the 24th December, we closed about 13:00. I understand that there was a Police operation tracking poachers from Risley, ending up with arrests near Blackbushe. The NPAS who operate the police helicopters confirmed they were supporting Hampshire Constabulary that evening. The noise you experienced was not related to the airport.

Submitted On	Name	Email Address	Telephone Number	Date	Time	Message	Reference Number	Further Information from Tower	Actions Taken
10/01/2018 11:32	Andrew Dunphy			10/01/2018	12:47	Mr Dunn said that a/c GRECW had just flown over his house in Mattingley at 200'.	2018/002	The a/c did join as Mr Dunn was talking to me, so there is little doubt that the a/c had been over or near to his house. However the level (200') may have been an exaggeration, although some low cloud in the area did exist.	16:46 10/01/2018 - Called Andrew Dunphy who described the event in detail. Pilot has been identified and will be advised of the complainees concerns on 11/01/2018. However it should be noted that Andrew was complimentary about previous actions taken by the airport to correct other low level incursions. Will give Andrew an update tomorrow following interview with pilot.

Security

- ▶ We are frustrated by increased level of recent criminal activity.
 - ▶ Smashed Runway lights at a cost of £10,000
 - ▶ Damage to Fence at RWY 25 end.
 - ▶ Green hangars slashed.
 - ▶ Damage again to gate at RWY 25 7 RWY 07 end
- ▶ We have upgraded CCTV coverage on the airfield
- ▶ We are evaluating an enhanced security presence at Blackbushe 24/7
- ▶ Common Land issue means we are unable to erect security fencing around the entire perimeter.

New Temporary Hangars

- ▶ A permitted development application went in on 8th February for 6 new temporary hangars
- ▶ These would be owned and erected by the airport, and leased out to residents
- ▶ Financial demands mean we will need a mix of residents and new aircraft to occupy them in order to get the ROI. A 50/50 split will be most likely
- ▶ The location will be least effected by proposed future development, giving them a longer life
- ▶ Security of these is a concern

