



**BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

c/o Clare Silcock (Secretary)  
Blackbushe Airport Ltd  
Terminal Building  
Blackbushe Airport  
Camberley  
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GU17 9LQ

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4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 19:30**

The next meeting of the committee will be held at The Gallery Room, The Tythings, 105 Reading Road, Yateley GU46 7RP on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 19:30, when the presence of members is requested.

The agenda for the meeting is enclosed, along with the minutes of the previous meeting.

I should be grateful if any member who cannot attend the meeting would kindly let me know in advance, by e-mail. Deputies are welcome to attend as are members of the public as this is a public meeting.

The Airport have a section of their website dedicated to this committee <https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/consultative-committee/> where as previously agreed it would be appreciated if you could publicise it on your website to increase the awareness of this committee.

Yours sincerely

Clare Silcock  
**Secretary of the Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee**

## BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held at 19:30 on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at The Tythings, 105 Reading Road, Yateley GU46 7RP

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Confirmation of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year**
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (Appendix 1)**  
To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019, attached
4. **Report by Airport Manager including monitoring of complaints**  
(see attached report and Noise Complaint log)
5. **Update on "Deregistration of Common Land"**  
All of our submission documents are available on-line at  
<https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/submissions>
6. **Matters Arising**
7. **Blackbushe Airport Users' Group: Report on Activities**  
Represented by Dan Lassiter, Managing Director of Blackbushe Flying Group.
8. **Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan (Richard Quarterman)**  
To update the committee on progress and request input
9. **Questions** (members of the public may ask questions for a period not exceeding 15 minutes)
10. **AOB**
11. **Confirmation of date and venue of the next meeting**

Clare Silcock  
Secretary of the Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## APPENDIX 1

## BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 19:30 ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019 AT THE TYTHINGS,  
YATELEY**Present:**

Mike Pearson	Chair [MP]
Cliff Hawkins	Vice Chair [CH]
Chris Gazzard	Blackbushe Airport [CG]
Cameron Ogden	Blackbushe Airport [CO]
Cllr Liz Corps	Rushmoor Borough Council [LC]
Cllr Terry Hunt	Blackwater and Hawley Town Council [TH]
Cllr David Simpson	Hampshire County Council [DS]
Tony Hocking	Yateley Society [TH]
John Cowley	Yateley Society [JC]
Cllr Diane Harvey	Hartley Whitney Parish Council [DH]
Christabelle Munford	AirFirst Flying School, Blackbushe Airport [CM]
Clare Silcock	Secretary [CS]

		Action required by
1	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  1.1 Sheila Davenport	
2	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2018</b>  2.1 MP opened the meeting by explaining what the purpose of the BACC was.  2.2. The minutes of the meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2018 were agreed as a true record Proposed by LC and seconded by TH.	
3	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2018</b>  3.1 MP went through the previous meeting's minutes and it was noted that one point had been unactioned due to illness – DS had not managed to speak to County about the security issues BBS had been experiencing.  CO confirmed that, following the previous meeting where DS had raised the point about applying directly to the Secretary of State on the issue of deregistration, further discussions had been had about the process and that the only option available to the Airport was to apply to PINs.  3.2 CG shared with the meeting a safeguarding map – the areas in green and red were in the immediate vicinity of the airport. Then within the yellow area any building/ crane etc.. > 150ft high had to be reported to the Airport. Blackbushe Airport (BBS) experiences very few reports of this.	

	<p><b>3.3</b> It was noted that the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for General Aviation (GA) has 209 members, the largest ever group which suggests cross party support for GA in all areas.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> It was noted that the Supercar event previously announced and due to happen in May 2019 has unfortunately been cancelled.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (presentation attached)</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b> Finances - 2018 has been an encouraging year even with the loss of the Airport's biggest customer, Blink/Wijet. There has been an increase of 14.7% in visitor landings, particularly in the second half of the year. AVGAS sales have been exceptional, although JET has been down by 26%. Unfortunately, costs have been significant with some resurfacing required and a lot of work on the lighting system, which is now working at 100%.</p> <p>2019 has started very positively, helped by the good weather, with record fuel sales. Movements are back up to 2009 levels with GA seemingly recovering after the recession. The flying schools have increased their bookings by 40% this year. As a result, the Airport's operating loss has already reduced by 14.2% vs 2018 at this point.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> The annual movements for 2018 reached more than 30,000 and analysis of where the customers come from/go to shows 219 unique destinations. There is a customs presence at the Airport meaning BBS can benefit from many international flights.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> The tenants and pilots based at BBS all have ID badges now and people come from a fair distance to work/ fly at BBS (see reach of BBS map in presentation).</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Security – Winter is generally worse due to darkness starting so early. CG went through the security issues as detailed in his presentation. DS questioned whether it was worth taking civil action on the perpetrators that the airport had identified, but it was deemed by CG not to be worth the time, cost and aggravation that would cause. The Individual has been banned from the site and any further sightings of him will result in him being treated as a trespasser. This on the advice of the police.</p> <p>To summarise there are regular break-ins usually accessing through the fence at the end of the runway. The people usually wear balaclavas and have been stealing fuel and, on one occasion, avionics from the resident aircraft. Some fuel tanks were damaged due to the caps being left off by the thieves and water and snow then got in. The Airport has had extra BCA security on site throughout the night, which has helped. More cameras have been installed as a deterrent and automatic lights have been put on buildings. It is obviously concerning as some owners have been tempted to take their aircraft away if they cannot be assured of its safety.</p>	

	<p>DS commended CG for a very comprehensive report and asked if security has always been an issue for the Airport or is this something new? The MD of AirFirst CM answered as she had been at the airport for the last 14 years and said that thefts have been on-going with fuel being a target throughout her time. CO also explained that when BCA had owned the whole site, they had security patrolling throughout the night including the Airport. Since he had owned the Airport, BCA have recently started helping with security again as their cars are also a target given that the thieves have often tried to access BCA via the Airport land. Unfortunately, the cost of the Airport providing their own security throughout the night is too costly to justify at this moment in time.</p> <p>LC asked if the security issue has caused a problem in affecting movements. CG said that potentially the jet traffic could well be affected. Some have commented that they would rather park at Farnborough due to the tighter security there.</p> <p>MP commented that security is an issue at airfields in general and unfortunately there is an expectation by Airfield owners that some infringement on the boundaries may well occur unless there is the ability to put up high fences.</p> <p><b>4.5 Noise Complaints</b> – Since the last BACC meeting the Airport website noise complaint page has been updated with a map giving exclusion areas and circuit information. There has been a lot less noise complaints over the last 6 months, but Winter is historically a period when there are less due to there being less flying and people are not sitting outside, and have their windows closed. Only 2 of the 8 complaints listed were BBS planes.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT UPDATE ON COMMON LAND DEREGISTRATION</b></p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Public Inquiry is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 and is set to run for 3-4 days. All of the Airport's documents can be viewed on the BBS website.</p> <p>There are 8 objectors including the Open Spaces Society, Peter Tipton, Cllr David Simpson and Cllr Adrian Collett who will be attending the meeting. The other 4 have not made submissions. Hampshire County Council will also be attending, although they missed the deadline for submissions. It will be up to the Planning Inspector to decide whether to accept their late submission.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>6.1</b> DS asked if the Airport had any issues arising from the police helicopter. CG answered that Yes, some people do think it is a helicopter based at BBS. They do record all complaints in the Tower. Occasionally an air ambulance flies in to BBS and other occasional military aircraft.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> MP highlighted that 255,000 pilots will be required in the next 10 years so there is a lot of demand for small airports and training schools</p>	

7	<p><b>USERS GROUP REPORT</b></p> <p>Christabelle Munford is the MD of AirFirst (also known as Blackbushe School of Flying), the flying school based at Blackbushe Airport. She has been running the Company for the last 9 years. They currently have a membership of 325 people, with about 70 active students. They offer red letter day trial lessons and approx. 45% continue to fly afterwards, so it has proved successful. Their students choose to fly from BBS because of location, a tarmacked runway and the friendliness of the airport. AirFirst run further training for UAE pilots (they expect 50 students via this route this year) and meteorology lessons for ops staff at GAMA, Farnborough.</p> <p>She stated that any development of the airfield will not only benefit AirFirst but all other tenants by providing permanent maintenance, hangars and generally improved airport facilities, which should all help to increase footfall.</p> <p>Christabelle offered any of the committee members a flight in an aircraft free of charge to come and see how the facility works. They are also holding an Open Day in September to celebrate AirFirst's 9-year anniversary.</p> <p>MP added that he recommends people do some circuits in the air to really get a feel for Blackbushe. DS stated that any free receipt of flight should be recorded by any of the Council members.</p>	
7	<p><b>QUESTION TIME FROM THE AUDIENCE</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b> Peter Brown stated that there is a shortage of airfields, especially with tarmacked runways, in the area with Dunsfold and Fairoaks potentially closing.</p> <p>MP added to this point quoting a Byron Davis report which says that when airfields are lost we never get them back. Aviation has a role to play in the UK and we should fight to retain the network of small airfields.</p> <p>DS stated that the big fear is that if the Airport closes and the common land is de-registered other industry/ housing could replace it.</p> <p>CG added that the Investors are very much behind developing the Airfield and know that if hangars can be built the airfield would be profitable. If BBS still had the old Premiair hangar (now with BCA) it would definitely be profitable now.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Di Gardner asked if the loss of the Farnborough Airshow in 2020 would negatively affect Blackbushe's profits. CG replied that in fact the Airshow has a negative affect on BBS as airspace gets very much restricted in the two weeks and they saw a massive drop in traffic and profit over that period in 2018. In the 1980s BBS used to do very well from Farnborough as aeroplanes would park up before going in to the show, but that doesn't</p>	

	<p>happen anymore. CM backed this up as she said there would be sudden closures of airspace and students didn't want to/ weren't able to fly because of it.</p> <p><b>7.3</b> MP said that many airfields are having to turn to other non-aviation events such as filming to make money, but some local authorities made this difficult. DS asked if BBS had any problems with filming permissions. CG answered that Hart are very pro-active in helping with any requests and that the Airfield does have a number of enquiries, but many are too ambitious, eg: a Marvel film made an enquiry but they wanted to involve helicopters on the inactive runways and BBS could not approve this. Natural England do often object as well – Jurassic World had wanted to film on the disused airfield, but Natural England objected as the birds were breeding. Unfortunately, that negative information gets out into the filming world and producers are not wanting the hassle. DS said it was worth speaking to Hampshire CC as they do promote filming in the local area. CO explained that in accordance with Section 38 and the Common Land, no structure is allowed and therefore Universal Films did not want to take the risk of spending £2m and then not being able to film. A small part of Rush was filmed at the Airport a couple of years ago on the active side and this was a very positive experience, but opportunities tend to be few and far between.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>CG referred to a map for interest of the airport and surrounding area he had put up for all to see at the meeting. It showed the whole area owned by Blackbushe Airport which includes the go-kart track and disused side, and the application site for de-registration. Everyone was free to look at it after the meeting and ask questions.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>FUTURE MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 19.30 at The Tithings.</p>	