



BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

c/o Clare Silcock (Secretary)
Blackbushe Airport Ltd
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28 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Tuesday 15th March 2022 19:00 PATHFINDER CAFÉ, BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT

The next meeting of the committee will be held at The Pathfinder Café at Blackbushe Airport on Tuesday 15th March at 7pm, when the presence of members is requested.

The agenda for the meeting is enclosed, along with the minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 14th September 2021.

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 7pm on 15th March 2022

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting (Appendix 1)**
To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2021, attached.
3. **Report by Airport Manager including monitoring of complaints, Update on Deregistration of Common Land, and Upcoming Airport Events in 2022**
(To Follow)
4. **Matters Arising**
5. **Questions (members of the public may ask questions for a period not exceeding 15 minutes)**
6. **AOB**
7. **Confirmation of date and venue of the next meeting**

Clare Silcock
Secretary of the Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee
28th February 2022

APPENDIX 1

BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 19:00 ON TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2021**Present:**

Chris Gazzard	Blackbushe Airport [CG]
Mike Pearson	Chair [MP]
Cllr Steve Thomas	Sandhurst Town Council
Cllr Sheila Davenport	Sandhurst Town Council [SD]
Cllr Diana Harvey	Hartley Whitney Parish Council [DH]
Cllr Terry Hunt	Blackwater & Hawley Town Council [TH]
Nicky Lyle	Yateley Society [NL]
Diane Gardner	Member of the Public [DG]
Clare Silcock	Secretary [CS]

		Action required by
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Peter Cullum (Rushmoor & Eversley) Richard Quarterman (Hart) Colin Edge (Eversley)	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd March 2021 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd March 2021 were agreed as a true record. This was proposed by TH and seconded by ST.	
3	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES Every year the Chairman and Vice are elected. MP said he was happy to stand again for re-election. This was proposed by SD and seconded by TH. Mike explained that Cliff Hawkins was not able to be Vice Chair anymore and suggested that CS could stand in as the Vice Chair on the very rare occasion that Mike wasn't there. This was proposed by TH and seconded by DH and agreed by the Committee.	
4	AIRPORT MANAGER'S UPDATE These minutes are in addition to the Airport Managers detailed presentation which should be referred to in conjunction with these minutes. 4.1 In the Business Performance figures compare 2021 with 2019 as 2020 was such an anomaly with the effects of Covid. The business did not close in 2021, but there was significantly less movements Jan – March as limited flying was allowed to certain groups	

such as single pilots and commercial flight training. At the end of March restrictions were lifted and there was a lot of pent-up demand for flying as pilots needed to remain current and wanted to get flying again. Luckily for the flying schools a lot of instructors have come back on to the market because of the furloughing and letting go of commercial pilots, so the flying schools are able to meet demand.

Compared to 2019 the General Aviation (GA) smaller planes movements are down 2.7%. GA rotary is down significantly as Phoenix helicopters went into administration.

Business jet movement however is up 3.4%, potentially due to travellers flying privately rather than commercially. Executive rotary is also up due to quite a bit of training going on at Blackbushe. AVGAS fuel sales are down a little but JETA1 is up significantly as we have had some large aircraft taking a lot of fuel (eg: Falcon will take 4,000 litres at a time.)

Looking at the 30-day average movements August and September have been very busy months and the rolling 12-month annual movements are gradually getting back on track and this is expected to be back to the average line in the next 6 months.

4.2 Supreme Court – we are still waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court who reconvene in October as to whether they will hear our appeal. Ultimately if the case gets heard by the Supreme Court but denied, or denied at this stage, the case then goes back to the Planning Inspector who decides what the curtilage should be.

4.3 Noise complaints – there have been 52 complaints in 2021 so far, 19 were from a single complainant. The recurring theme tends to be relating to planes that are returning to us from the Farnborough Control zone to the south of the airport. We do ask pilots to remain to the south-west of Yateley but sometimes they get their descent wrong. We always speak to the pilots concerned whenever we get a noise complaint, and we'd rather receive the complaints so we can do something about them rather than leave it and it keep re-occurring. Helicopter noise has almost dropped off completely.

There have been a few aerobatic complaints, but these have often been from planes coming out of White Waltham, but where they perform their aerobatics is in Class G airspace and this is not regulated so there is not a lot that can be done about it. Chris always directs the complainant for these aircraft back to White Waltham.

There have been some instances where the larger Falcon 50 jets have flown over Hartley Wintney which causes some local concern but often their flight height is deceptive, and residents think they are flying lower than they really are. Their flights here tend to be very seasonal, and we haven't seen them for the last few weeks. Also, some jets landing have been routed by Farnborough Air Traffic Control over the village. Chris has spoken to the GM at Farnborough and asked him to remind the ATCOs to route the aircraft through the gap between Hartley Wintney and Hook, and turn them onto final approach earlier, bringing them north of Hartley Wintney and not over the village. These tracks have noticeably improved in recent weeks.

<p>TH asked about the Shapley Heath proposed development between Fleet, Hartley Wintney and Hook and how that would be affected by the airport. Chris explained that currently the aircraft fly through that gap in the countryside when taking off or landing here or in Farnborough and so the houses would be affected by noise. However due to the agent of change principal, any new residents couldn't do anything about the noise as the airports pre-exist. This should be discussed with the developers prior to building so that houses can be built with this in mind at least. There is another development proposed at Fir Farm to the west of Yateley, but our aircraft fly directly over this. We will be responding to planners when we get the opportunity as that development will certainly be affected by aircraft noise.</p> <p>DG asked about aircraft approach over Blackwater. Chris explained that the jet aircraft start their approach at the Bagshot mast so do fly directly over Blackwater. The introduction of the Farnborough airspace has improved the situation as they are flying straight over Blackwater rather than turning.</p> <p>MP explained that as Blackbushe is a training school airfield there are some inexperienced pilots, who don't always get it right. Sometimes for example they will get their height wrong (the circuit is set at 800ft at BBS for this reason) but the airfield itself is at 325ft, so basically everyone should be above 500 ft at least. Sometimes aircraft do deviate from a course, but this could well be for safety reasons.</p> <p>Overall, 0.01% of the movements at BBS cause a noise complaint. Aerobatics are annoying for residents, but they tend to be for a short period of time (15 mins) and we do ask training schools to vary the area they are using during a day so that they do not upset residents.</p> <p>4.4 On the 10th August we had a visit from an electric plane, which was one-off for now as it was doing a tour of 30-odd airfields around the country. The aircraft has been certified in the UK and retails at €180k and only has a one-hour flight time. Blackbushe has invested in greener fuel over the last few years and spent £60k on a new fuel bowser to take deliver this. Sales are on the increase for this type of fuel, and the flying schools are increasing the number of planes they have using this fuel. We have had to price the fuel at a lower margin than other types to ensure there is an incentive to buy the greener fuel as it is more expensive.</p> <p>4.5 Twilight Runway Challenge – This was run last weekend by CMPP who charged £10 for entry to go to their charity, and then the runners all ran for their selected charities. 700 runners, bikers, roller-skaters and go-karts took part, which was a record for the event. This has in the past taken place at Farnborough for the last 9 years, but they are not able to accommodate it anymore so we took it on. We provided the venue and volunteers free of charge. Next year we may develop the event further by providing entertainment ..etc..</p> <p>The event was publicised by CMPP and on our social media pages. The local councillors all suggested that for next year they could publish details of the event in their local newsletters and Chris said he would take this up in the follow up meeting with CMPP.</p>	<p>CG</p>
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	<p>4.6 The airport has another charity event happening from the 23rd – 25th September, a world record attempt of a 50km car pull! He is raising money for a rare neurological disease H-abc which affects about 150 children around the world. Darren Hardy will be pulling the vehicle mostly on the disused runway for 36 hours starting from the Terminal Building on Thursday lunchtime and finishing in the same spot on Saturday morning. There has been a lot of social media coverage and Sky and ITV news are also involved.</p> <p>4.7 – Pathfinder Café – there was a lot of negative feeling when the airport took over the running of the café, but after a complete refurbishment back in March and April, the feedback since opening has been fantastic and in the first 6 months, we have sold 15,000 breakfasts and 28,000 teas and coffees!</p> <p>4.8 The café is significantly helping with the airports drive to breaking even. Back in 2017 the airport experienced a £350k loss. The expected loss in 2021 is around £40-£50k, with the hope of getting close to breaking even in 2022.</p>	
5	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC & COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Chairman commented that a fair amount of what Chris had been talking about wasn't necessarily purely aviation. Hopefully the committee and members of the public could view the airport as a community asset. It is a public space that can be inspiring for youngsters. Unfortunately for Blackbushe, there is still a lot in limbo due to the planning delays and considerations, and ultimately if the airfield is not successful financially it may be that there is no airfield.</p> <p>DH commented that the airport ought to shout about the green initiatives that are going on at the airfield as the community is very interested in these.</p> <p>TH asked if the airport had had many security issues. He commented that some motorbikes do mess around on the disused runway at times, which could be dangerous to members of the public. Chris commented that BCA do send patrols over the disused runway overnight, but if these occur during the daytime the public should call directly into the Tower at Blackbushe, and we can send the fire crew over to deter them. There had been a theft incident in the carpark where a small truck parks overnight and all its wooden side panels were ripped off in a matter of three minutes (caught on CCTV) by three men who disappeared over the common with them, so security is a continuing issue.</p> <p>DG asked if the airport was able to run mini tours of the airfield. Chris explained that we had been doing this for some children pre-lockdown who were members of beavers, cubs and scouts, and a group of home-educators. It is tricky to do however as our Tower is very small and we can only allow 3-4 up there at any time. Aerobility got involved with showing the children an aeroplane and the fire crew also gave access to the fire engine. Also, Rob</p>	

	<p>Belcher, our local historian has arranged walking tours of the airfield in the past, but these have all stopped for now following Covid.</p> <p>There was a question from the floor about the use of drones – we do have a lot of public requests especially for filming weddings nearby. We do have to inform our pilots of any drones nearby and we do ask drone users to limit the height they fly them to.</p>	
6	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Nothing further was added by the members of the public or the committee.</p> <p>MP closed the meeting by saying that Grant Schapps had raised the profile of GA within the Government, which has been good for aviation. It is important that we retain these small airfields as they are certainly needed in the future.</p>	
10	<p>FUTURE MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting date is Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 7pm at the Pathfinder Café again. However please let CS know if this creates a clash with other local events.</p>	CS