



**BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

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

[bacc@blackbusheairport.co.uk](mailto:bacc@blackbusheairport.co.uk)

7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 at 19:00**  
**PATHFINDER CAFÉ, BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT**

The next meeting of the committee will be held at The Pathfinder Café at Blackbushe Airport on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting (Appendix 1)**  
To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023, below.
3. **Report by Airport Manager on Business Performance including Noise Complaints**
4. **Current Projects – Lighting, Trees and RSPB work**
5. **Blackbushe Air Day 2024**
6. **Carbon Neutrality**
7. **Questions (members of the public may ask questions for a period not exceeding 15 minutes)**
8. **Common Land Exchange Update**
9. **AOB**
10. **Confirmation of date and venue of the next meeting**

Clare Silcock  
Secretary of the Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**APPENDIX 1**

**BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 19:00 ON TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Present:**

Chris Gazzard	Blackbushe Airport [CG]
Michael Bagshaw	Chair [MB]
Cllr Tim Davies	Hampshire CC [TD]
Cllr Peter Cullum	Rushmoor BC [PC]
Cllr Richard Quarterman	Hart District Council [RQ]
Alison Hewitt	Yateley Society Chair [AH]
Mary Ferris	Yateley Society [MF]
Di Gardner	Yateley Society {DG}
Clare Silcock	Secretary [CS]

		<b>Action required by</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Cllr Terry Hunt Blackwater &amp; Hawley Town Council, Cllr Steve Thomas resigned Sandhurst Town Council, Cllr Sheila Davenport Sandhurst Town Council, Cllr Philip Todd Eversley, Diana Harvey resigned Hartley Wintney Parish Council</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 were agreed as a true record. This was proposed by RQ and seconded by TD.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the previous minutes</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>AIRPORT MANAGER'S UPDATE</b></p> <p>These minutes are in addition to the Airport Managers detailed presentation which should be referred to in conjunction with these minutes.</p> <p><b>4.1 In the Business Performance</b> – Executive movements are down from last year. Generally BBS has seen a reduction of movements of 5-10% in Europe for the smaller executive jets, and this is reflected in August which was the second worst month of the year so far for BBS, not helped by the poor weather, but it is usually one of the strongest months. Fuel sales for AvGas is down so far by 9% and the airport is are finding that aircraft are generally making shorter trips and not taking so much fuel. JetA1 was down by 20% - the airport has not had the volume of larger jets, especially the Falcons flying in and out, as they are now based and hangered in Southampton so do not need to use Blackbushe as much. The monthly movements showed June to be the best month in terms of volume. The annual movements</p>	

graph shows an upward trend now since January 2021, and is above average over the last couple of years compared to the last 20 years.

**4.2 – Noise Complaints** – CG highlighted the various numbers in his presentation and explained that there have been 57 complaints to date this year. 23 of them have been from one person based in Yateley, who lives just on the edge of the noise abatement area. CG has not perceived any major themes, but has received a couple of new complaints from the Farnham area. This is down to the aircraft sometimes having to hold over that area before crossing the Farnborough airspace, so there is not a lot BBS can do about this. There have been a couple of survey plane complaints, which again there is nothing that can be done about these as they have to fly over certain areas to do their job.

DG asked if the airport had had any complaints from the Blackwater area. CG responded that No the airport had not. Surprisingly BBS has only received 1 complaint from the Western edge of Yateley, other than the normal complainant. There had been one helicopter complaint from the 001 Adventure flights but thankfully it came early in the day and the airport was able to rectify what was happening and there was no further issues. This helicopter often travels between White Waltham and BBS.

RQ asked what had been done about Mr Hall's complaints (the multiple complainant) and CG explained that in the past CG had always emailed Mr Hall to explain in full detail what was being done about the complaint and the reason for the issue. However so many emails then went back and forth as Mr Hall was never satisfied with the response and it resulted in an irrational exchange. CG took the decision earlier this year to not get into any kind of discussion with Mr Hall, just log his complaint, action it internally, but not respond except for acknowledging the complaint. As detailed in the noise complaints everyone can see the action that has been taken by the airport.

CG recently attended a Vertiport presentation (a Vertiport is an area that can support the vertical take off and landing of an aircraft). One take away for him was that Noise is a real factor in allowing planning permission and the noise levels of aircraft need to be known. A member of the committee asked if there was a decibel level limit, but CG was not aware of one. The aircraft at BBS tend to be in the range of 60-80 Decibels.

TD asked if CG had seen the letter from Farnborough Airport to increase their flight numbers and how it might affect BBS. He responded that there will be a potential of fewer gaps to get the piston aircraft across the Southbound area of the Farnborough airspace, causing potentially more noise issues and he will be seeking reassurance from Farnborough that this won't be the case. He wasn't too worried about the type of jet traffic they take as BBS is significantly cheaper than FAB and more efficient in getting people on to planes, so a different market. There may be a benefit to BBS as FAB may concentrate on the bigger jets so meaning that more smaller jets could come in to BBS. He noted however that 5% of the current BBS traffic is executive jets, 95% is small piston aircraft. It could move to 10:90 if the BBS plans go ahead.

Michael, from the public gallery asked if BBS could request a different transit route and CG answered that he hoped that FAB would recognise and address this issue among others, prior to being asked, but it is something that he will look to raise if not. PC let the committee know that the next FAB consultation is at Farnborough Tech on 30<sup>th</sup> September between 10am – 3pm.

There was no further questions on noise, so TD asked if CG could move the Common Land issue further up the agenda as he had another meeting to go to.

**4.3 Common Land Deregistration** – BBS is still awaiting a decision from PINS, as the process has now gone full circle and back with the Planning Inspectorate to decide on the deregistration of a much smaller piece of land. The Inspector made an unaccompanied visit to the Airport on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and after that suggested that the patio of the café should not be included in the application. The Open Spaces society and HCC are in support of the Terminal Building and Café building to be deregistered, so BBS are hoping that at least this will be agreed upon by the Planning Inspector.

In conjunction with the above, The airport team is currently working on a section 16 land exchange application – The airport bought Cottage Farm, whose location could be seen on the map Chris showed. CG went through the process and timescales for the pre-consultation and public consultation periods, which he hoped would be complete by Christmas 2023.

TD asked if there were any plans for a roundabout to be built on the A30 entrance to BBS and CG explained that, in the original plan there was, but now the proposal would be to design a protected right turn instead.

TD departed the meeting at this time with apologies.

#### 4.4 Blackbushe Events 2023

The **BBS Air Day** proved very successful again with approximately 3,000 people in attendance (2,837 tickets sold). CG said that there were plans to hold it the same weekend in 2024. However Peter Brown from the audience pointed out that there is a large air display planned at Duxford on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, so CG said he may well change the date!

MB asked if there had been any noise complaints and there was one when the Messerschmidt flew in the day before and there was one complaint on the day.

The **Twilight Runway Challenge** was again another success with over £40,000 raised for local causes. CMPP identify local initiatives for the larger corporate companies' workers to volunteer to help with these initiatives.

**4.5 Blackbushe Heritage Trust** – The Viking has now arrived and the volunteers are busy stripping out the interior, restoring the fuselage, and painting the outside. They are looking to involve students from Farnborough Tech and BA Apprentices in this work. They continue to fund raise and they are holding some interesting monthly talks in the café at £10 a time.

CG to review

	<p><b>4,6 – Climate Net Zero</b> – RQ had asked for this to be added to the agenda and it will continue to be discussed at each committee meeting going forward. He explained that Hart DC had declared a climate emergency in 2021 with the aim of HDC being at net zero by 2035. The district as a whole has an aim of 2040. Hart have to date focused on leisure centres, bin collections, etc,, but they are looking to raise awareness in the local business community</p> <p>CG went through the various small initiatives that BBS have embraced such as switching to LED lights throughout the Terminal Building, installation of Smart thermostats and a new more efficient boiler, reduction in the electricity and oil usage over the last few years. BBS has installed unleaded fuel pumps, and electric car charging points. BBS is planning to install new runway lighting in 2024 with LED (slightly earlier than planned due to a storm blowing the whole runway light system). And it is looking to install solar panels on the Terminal building roof over the next few months with the aim of reducing the food waste from the café over the next few month. We have already started asking people whether they want salad with their food or not, to at least make an impact on reducing the wastage.</p> <p>PC mentioned that Farnborough Airport claim to already be at net zero. CG said that he had looked at their information and would continue to look at new ways to achieve net zero.</p> <p>RQ thanked Chris for his report on this and would report back to the HDC committee next week.</p>	
5	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC &amp; COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Rob Burrow from the public gallery asked what the timeline was for Land deregistration and building. CG gave his optimistic view as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the land exchange application in November</li> <li>• Hold Public Consultations through to Christmas 2023.</li> <li>• Expectation is that the application will go to public enquiry which is likely to take a year,</li> <li>• BBS need to allow for a 3 month appeal time, so it is likely that there will be no building 2025.</li> <li>• In between times BBS will liaise with Hart District Council for permitted development for the smaller builds down the far end of the airport. RQ encouraged pre active engagement with Hart DC at this time.</li> <li>• If BBS is allowed to build some hangars through permitted development then some building may start early 2025.</li> </ul>	

	<p>A vision document has been prepared as a 20 year plan and this will be shown to all concerned during the consultation periods.</p> <p>Michael from the audience asked about the size of the hangars going forward as White Waltham's are slightly bigger than the BBS single use green polytunnel hangars and fit so many more aircraft in. CG explained that he would certainly be applying for larger hangars as single use was sustainable going forward. BBS hope to hold 10-20 aircraft in the hangars but BBS was mindful of the common land issue when installing the most recent hangars. These hangars will remain as there will still be a use for them, but we will remove the green hangars nearer to the café and rebuild there.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS –</b></p> <p>The meeting concluded with MB thanking Chris and his team for all of their hard work at the Airport.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>FUTURE MEETING - The next meeting date will be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Pathfinder Café.</b></p> <p><b>It is expected that there will be an exceptional consultative committee meeting sometime in November at a venue tbc, with the sole focus of updating on the Common Land and Land Exchange process.</b></p>	<b>CS to confirm</b>