

Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee
Tuesday 5th March 2019
2.30pm Briefing Rooms Headcorn Aerodrome

Present:	James P A Freeman	Chairman
	Terry Hodges	Private Owner/Insurance
	Andrew Boxall	Headcorn Aerodrome
	Brian Bristow	Smarden PC
	John Perry	Staplehurst PC & MBC
	Lester Gosbee	Frittenden PC
	Martin Round	MBC
	Ben Perkins	Aero Legends Ltd
	Lyn Selby	Headcorn PC
	Gerald Hodges	Thurston Helicopters Ltd
	James Tuke	Thurston Helicopters Ltd
	Jane Hopkins	Skydive Headcorn
	David Parker	Headcorn Parachute Club
	Dave Evans	Headcorn Aerodrome
	Sue Line	Secretary

Apologies for Absence

 Cllr Geraldine Dyer
 (Cllr Dyer also notified that she would be standing down from her position shortly)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

 Were read and accepted and signed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

James Tuke and Lester Gosbee had been made aware of a complaint by a resident who used to live in Frittenden. This resident owned horses and had visiting horses and riders and there had been issues with fixed wing aircraft from Weald Air Services, specifically G-BNYL and G-SEXX.

It was agreed that the resident was not in a good position being on the downwind leg.

James Tuke indicated that Thurston Helicopters were aware of a sand-school on right base and his pilots and owners were told to avoid this area if there is any activity there. Helicopters can manoeuvre more easily if they spot any such activity but Jamie Freeman agreed that this was more difficult in a fixed wing particularly if there were wind issues. It was agreed that the aerodrome would speak to the fixed wing instructors and ask them to avoid the area if possible although it would be very difficult. However, it was agreed that we had tried to deal with this previously and spent a good deal of time with this resident. There was a discussion about the height of the aircraft and the reading of the registrations. Lyn Selby wondered what could be done to help and asked if the resident was new to the area but it was confirmed that he/she had been there for several years and had been in touch with the Committee before.

Memorial flights,

It was felt that Memorial Flights were now more complicated to organize and very much subject to 'when they are in the area'. Jamie Freeman said as we have Aero Legends Ltd based here it may be worth approaching them. Ben Perkins was referred to but he said that this would not be possible below 1,000ft or with a passenger. He indicated that on the Fly Alongside days the aircraft would not be carrying passengers and that they had tried to help in the past.

Planning and Events.

The Headcorn Calendar was discussed. Hard copies of the diary and aerobatic free days were available but the Secretary would also email the Committee. There were not so many Boot Fairs this year as the Museum was not now involved, although it was making a charge to enter so their own funds may balance out.

The aerodrome has 3 main events this year and a meeting had been held with Maidstone Borough Council, at their request, with a view to streamlining the planning applications for these events. This would enable both MBC and the aerodrome to reduce the paperwork involved. It had been agreed that 3 events could be held each year but that the aerodrome need not put in individual applications each time these came up. The application went in in November 2018 although it was currently still in the melting pot. Martin Round indicated that 3 officers had been in post during the last 6 months and felt that Planning needed a top grade Planning Officer to deal with the aerodrome.

Jamie Freeman confirmed that the aerodrome will not put in separate applications this year. He would send the information to Lyn Selby so that she can advise the Parish Council. Martin Round understood this to be a consolidation of the applications. He would keep Jamie Freeman informed if he heard anything.

Ben Perkins said that he had tried to consolidate applications with the SAG. The SAG, in particular Matt Robert, said he would try and pass it back through committee. Martin Round understood the position.

Referring back to the calendar, Jamie said that there were more days added in for Fly Alongside on behalf of Aero-Legends, plus a Farm Sale. Combined Ops had been brought forward for a week so as not to clash with the Tractorfest in Biddenden. Otherwise everything was more or less the same as last year.

Ben Perkins advised of Aero Legend's part in the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. He said that the bulk of the Dakotas will be flying over from the United States to Duxford and would transit over Headcorn. It was expected that they would be quite noisy. They anticipated some 40 Dakotas. Ben Perkins said that Aero Legends would launch to Normandy one day early on 4th June. The Duxford group would leave on 5th June. It is thought they would be flying at some altitude/still climbing over Headcorn. This would affect parachuting.. Ben Perkins indicated that Aero Legends might be able to have a number of Dakotas over here for their own airshow later in the year - comprising or two on site as static displays.

Jane Hopkins explained the routine Club events which Headcorn Parachute Club/Skydive Headcorn held during the year. She outlined 3 In House events: Big Way - where everybody left the aircraft and formatted up together. Scrambles – where experienced, junior and intermediates compete against each other plus the Accuracy competition.

Ben Perkins added further comments about events: He felt the biggest source of complaints were about traffic and carparking and the fact that some people had not paid to see shows. He confirmed that AA were doing traffic plan and road signing. Aero Legends had increased the ticket price of the show and had become very involved in the organizing of the show this year. It was felt that the increase in the ticket price would mean that fewer tickets would be sold. Last year some tickets were on sale with e.g. Groupon for as little as £3.25 which it was felt was not very commercial. This would be a smaller and more action packed show. Jamie Freeman said this would mean no need to speak to local farmers to rent additional fields in anticipation of the drop in numbers.

Other activities during the year would involve a Fly-In from Aero Fun Calais on 31st May when a group of about 40 microlites from France would fly in. As Headcorn had recently changed radio frequency Air Traffic would be on the alert for anybody not on the current frequency. The official AIP (Aeronautical Information Publication) had been updated and the aerodrome was requiring pilots to PPR by telephone as opposed to just calling on the radio.

On 28th September there will be the Kent Strut Fly In, (Meet the Light Aircraft Association Day).

Correspondence. Nothing reported.

AOB

Brian Bristow asked how the new hangar was progressing. Jamie Freeman had hoped that they would have started last Friday but the key person was currently away on another

project so ideally he would be starting next week. Ben Perkins asked if that would house the Spitfire then it could be kept here for a number of days.

Meeting Ended at 3.05pm

Date of next meeting 11th June 2019
At 2.30 at Headcorn Aerodrome.