

**Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**  
**Wings Bar & Restaurant**  
**Headcorn Aerodrome**

**Present:** Jamie Freeman – Headcorn Aerodrome  
Lester Gosbee – Frittenden PC  
Brian Bristow - Smarden PC  
Mel Alesi – Staplehurst PC  
John Perry – Staplehurst PC  
Terry Hodges- Insurance/Museum  
Chris Yates – Headcorn Special Events Ltd  
Andrew Boxall – Headcorn Aerodrome  
Linda Thorogood – Headcorn PC  
Kevin Podger – Aero Legends Ltd  
Martin Round – Mayor of Maidstone. Headcorn PC.  
Pete Sizer – GoSkyDive  
Sue Line - Secretary

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Ziggy Trzebinski - MBC  
Gordon Blamire – GoSkyDive

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting** were read and accepted would be placed on the website.

**3 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There was a discussion about the decision on the Moat Road planning development and a view that if this was granted on appeal there would be issues about aircraft turning out away from the aerodrome.

**4 Planning.** Apart from the above there was nothing to discuss about planning.

**5 Correspondence**

There had been no correspondence.

**6: Events:**

Martin Round asked about the Smarden Tractor Run on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Jamie Freeman confirmed that it concluded at the aerodrome. There would be of the order of 100 tractors usually. They would have their own area by the hedge and proceeds would go to charity (The Pilgrims Hospice).

The collective Farm Sale was not being held here at the aerodrome this year as it was going to Charing.

Battle of Britain: Chris Yates reminded the Committee that on the Friday of that event the aerodrome held a Schools, Services and Veterans Day when attendees were able to come and take part in activities.

Chris Yates confirmed that on the Battle of Britain weekends AMP Ltd undertook all work on the ground and the RAF involvement. AMP Ltd also handled the Event Manual and the H&S assessments which were required. He confirmed that the RAF assets were allocated but that he was not able to indicate the flight times.

Aero Legends flew their own aircraft. Kevin Podger helped with the trade bookings, Terry Hodges handled the insurance.

## **7 Complaints**

There had been complaints from The Big Cat Sanctuary about overflying but it was felt that the aircraft were within limits being in the box. Both Jamie Freeman and Chris Yates were in touch with The Big Cat Sanctuary who had expressed concern about their animal(s) rescued from the Ukraine being understandably very anxious about noise. Chris Yates said that the Big Cat Sanctuary would be happy to speak to pilots and possibly to show them round.

The aerodrome is hosting a charity event for them in the summer. Pete Sizer said GoSkyDive would also be part of this event. Chris Yates said the aerodrome had a good working relationship with the Big Cat Sanctuary. He understood that the lions were being nurtured back to fitness and Jamie Freeman's wife, Valerie Freeman BVetMed MRCVS of Green Lane Vet & Farming Ltd was helping on that front. He felt that this was a local community thing.

Complaints had been received from residents in Bletchenden about the Caravan flying too close to their respective properties. Unfortunately the windsock had fallen off and Jamie Freeman had suggested that the aerodrome needed to order another windsock as it did help to some extent by keeping pilots on the correct flight path. Pete Sizer said there had been 3 take offs and landings and Jamie confirmed.

There had been a further complaint from a resident of Frittenden on the subject of aircraft taking off on runway 28. It was agreed with GoSkyDive when taking off on 28 that they could invoke a righthand turnout instead of left hand turnout, turning away from Bletchenden. Jamie Freeman said that the aerodrome could try that and see what happens. The aircraft being flown by GoSkyDive is so much quieter than earlier aircraft. Jamie Freeman had emailed back to the person concerned.

## **8 Any Other Business:**

Brian Bristow had a parishioner call him about an RAF A400 which was in the area. It was believed to be on manoeuvres locally and did undertake a couple of passes at the aerodrome.

There was a discussion about security and the increasing use of drones.

Aerodrome staff had completed a litter pick both inside the aerodrome and outside the perimeter. Jamie Freeman was keen that both Headcorn Parish Council and Maidstone Borough Council were aware of this. It was noticeable that vapes and gas canisters formed part of that collection of rubbish.

Lester Gosbee reported that 2025 was recorded as one of the top 5 warmest Julys on record and so far in 2025 there were 9 days when temperatures exceeded 32 degrees.

The Secretary would circulate the regular aerodrome diary and the aerobatic free days. This would also show the dates on which Aero Legends Ltd planned to be attendance flying Spitfires. However if the weather was against them for any reason they would re-book but not necessarily at Headcorn.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

**Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 in Wings Bar.**

  
1430 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025