

**Headcorn Aerodrome  
Kent TN27 9HX**

**01622 890 226**

**Annual General Meeting  
Headcorn Consultative Committee  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Wings Bar & Restaurant  
Headcorn Aerodrome**

Present: James Freeman – Headcorn Aerodrome  
Terry Hodges - Museum and Insurance  
Brian Bristow – Smarden Parish Council  
Melanie Alesi – Staplehurst Parish Council  
Linda Thorogood – Headcorn Parish Council  
Jane Buckle - GoSkyDive Ltd  
Gerald Hodges – Thurston Helicopters  
James Tuke – Frittenden Parish Council  
Peter Sizer – GoSkyDive Ltd  
Ben Perkins – Aero Legends Ltd  
Ziggy Trzebinski – Maidstone Borough Council  
Martin Round – Maidstone Borough Council  
Sue Line - Secretary

**Election of Chairman**

Jamie Freeman was proposed by Terry Hodges and seconded by Ziggy Trzebinski and duly appointed as Chairman.

**Election of Vice-Chairman**

Brian Bristow was proposed by Gerald Hodges and seconded by Jane Buckle and duly appointed as Vice-Chairman

**Appointment of Secretary**

Sue Line was proposed by Terry Hodges and seconded by Martin Round and duly appointed as Secretary

**Consultative Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 2.30 pm**  
**Wings Bar & Restaurant**  
**Headcorn Aerodrome**

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Terry Hodges - Museum and Insurance  
Brian Bristow – Smarden Parish Council  
Melanie Alesi – Staplehurst Parish Council  
Linda Thorogood – Headcorn Parish Council  
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Martin Round – Maidstone Borough Council  
Sue Line - Secretary

**1 Apologies for Absence**

John Perry – Staplehurst Parish Council

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Read signed and accepted and would be posted on the Headcorn Aerodrome website.

**3 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising from the Minutes. Other matters pursued as below

**4 Planning & Events**

The Battle of Britain Air Show and the Southern Model Shows would be going ahead in 2024. It was confirmed to Terry Hodges that there would be no Combined Ops.

Brian Bristow asked Ben Perkins of Aero Legends if he knew when the Red Arrows would be attending, but it was not possible to confirm as Aero Legends had not yet been advised. Ben was able to confirm that there would be Spitfires, Bi-planes etc. There was a short discussion about the Events List.

Ben Perkins confirmed to Jane Buckle that the Battle of Britain show would begin at midday on the Friday and that the morning would be regular flying. Jane said that would not be any good for GoSkyDive.

There was a discussion about the new development west of Headcorn known as Moat Road. The aerodrome had already written in to Maidstone Borough Council emphasizing that the development would be overflowed when aircraft were on runway 28 and leaving the circuit to travel north. The request was that both developers and purchasers of the houses should be made very well aware of that fact and their complaints would not interfere with the well-established use of the aerodrome. The accepted way forward (with previous agreement HACC) was to use the Church as a guideline and to turn right after it if the pilot needed to travel north,. This would mean overflying of the development and, as previously mentioned, the developers and new residents should be made aware of this.

Martin Round felt it would help if more specific information could be published confirming the flight path, and Terry Hodges said that all information was actually published and in the public domain. Ziggy Trzebinski felt that was a potential risk and Jamie Freeman said that risk was the potential noise.

Jamie Freeman confirmed that if the aircraft were joining on final there should be no issue but on climb out if they wanted to clear to the north to another airfield they could overfly. Martin Round then indicated that any residents would be aware and had chosen to move to that location. He also said that the developers were on their 4<sup>th</sup> iteration of planning currently being lodged today or tomorrow. There were also issues with flood and environmental damage to the site and also the road itself. He felt that St John's College Cambridge were keen to sell the site and was aware that there was a need for housing in Kent but felt that there were far better sites to consider. He also felt that the development gave the village no benefits. Parish and Ward Councillors were not opposed to housing but felt there should be mitigation and benefits to the village. It was suggested that Jamie Freeman should write a further letter to the Planning Committee (**Note: Secretary was subsequently advised that Planning had already been Refused on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**). There was a conversation with Gerald Hodges about other benefactors in the area putting forward sites which had been turned down.

## 5 Correspondence

None.

## 6 Complaints

The listed complaints were very few since last June. One was a complaint about an aircraft which turned out to be nothing to with Headcorn Aerodrome.

There was another complaint from a lady living right under the circuit who kindly phoned up the following day to confirm that the aircraft had not flown over her house following her original phone call.

Another complaint: (complainant not named here) was on the subject of the general public blocking his driveway during the Battle of Britain Show. This led

to a discussion about the general public just parking up on the roads during the show to get a free view of the aircraft. Ben Perkins pointed out that they had police motorcyclists patrolling and traffic controls on all major roads plus ample parking for those attending the show.

There were complaints about an event in July of 2023. It was booked as a 'Brunch' event and was a fully ticketed event with very smart marquees and facilities, but those who were actually running the event allowed it to go on into the evening (which was never agreed by the aerodrome) and the local residents were upset describing it as a 'rave'. Jamie Freeman had spoken to some of the local residents and explained the position, that the people putting on the event had not said it would go on into the evening and they had not been forthcoming about the actual event itself despite being questioned. Gerald Hodges felt that a lesson had been learned.

#### **7 Any other business.**

Jamie confirmed that there was a new replacement parachute aircraft based at the aerodrome (Registration N106AN) and it was a slightly bigger aircraft but was quieter when flying. It could also reach an operating height of 12,000ft in 9 minutes. There would be fewer low-level drops, although they could still be held by London. The company previously known as Headcorn Parachute Club was now owned by GoSkyDive Ltd. Jane Buckle said that all the pilots had undertaken appropriate training and carried out 2 drops for currency. The weather had been against them but they were intending to operate this coming weekend.

#### **8 Date of next meeting; 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**At 2.30pm in Wings Bar & Restaurant**

**Meeting closed at 3.20pm**