

**Headcorn Aerodrome
Consultative Committee
Wings Bar 2.30 Tuesday 15th October 2024**

Present:

Jamie Freeman – Chairman
Chris Yates – Headcorn Special Events Ltd
Ben Perkins – Aero Legends Ltd
Andrew Boxall – Headcorn Aerodrome
Linda Thoroughgood – Headcorn Parish Council
Martin Round – Maidstone Borough Council
Gerald Hodges – Thurston Helicopters
Peter Sizer - GoSkyDive
Lester Gosbee – Frittenden Parish Council
Kayleigh Brunger Randall – Ashford Borough Council

Apologies

Ziggy Trzebinski - MBC
Brian Bristow – Smarden Parish Council
Terry Hodges - Insurance
Jane Buckle - GoSkyDive
Gordon Blamire – GoSkyDive

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Martin Round explained about the application for the housing at Moat Road which had been turned down for the third time. The street scene, highway concerns, flood zone and overflying by the aerodrome. He felt that the aerodrome had been here for some considerable time and that this would be a useful discussion and precedent in Court if needed. Jamie Freeman felt that this was the first time that this had been recognized. Martin Round said that the Appeal would probably go ahead in February. Going forward he was aware that it was an assigned site and there was a discussion if, in the future, that area was developed, then the potential purchasers would be made well aware of their position. Jamie Freeman felt that pre-contract enquiries should show up the existence of the aerodrome whether for a new development or simply the sale of an existing property. Kayleigh Brunger-Randall understood that similar issues were felt in Smarden and Jamie Freeman explained that Smarden was a particular area which the aerodrome made special efforts to keep clear of.

3 Planning and Events

Jamie Freeman said that the Battle of Britain, the Model Show and the Car Shows were well attended. Unfortunately the Red Arrows were not able to attend at the Battle of Britain because of weather restrictions. The summer weather had been variable.

For 2025 the Battle of Britain would be a 2-day show on 28th and 29th June. There would be the Schools and Seniors day on the 27th and the Armed Forces Day would be wrapped into that. There may be practice displays on that day with possibly 200 school children from deprived areas and some wealthier schools had offered to assist with transport.

Jamie had begun discussions about the Model Show for 2025. Chris Yates said that Kent Police were considering an Open Day event possibly the weekend before or the weekend after the Battle of Britain show. It would be free entry to the public and they would organise it. It was nothing to do with flying and was for the community.

4 Correspondence

No correspondence.

5 Complaints

Linda Thoroughgood raised the question of roadside rubbish with special reference to rubbish at the new estate. Chris Yates said he had checked that at the time and it did not seem that bad to him.

Concerns had been raised on the subject of fireworks for the Model Show that notification of their use was not early enough for people to be aware and only been on social media. Jamie Freeman said he had taken that issue on board. Andrew Boxall said it had been advertised for some time and was on Facebook.

A resident had raised an issue about the new GoSkyDive aircraft and the aerodrome had been asked whether it was quieter or noisier. Pete Sizer felt that if you are actually on the ground standing in front of it in the 'cone' then it felt noisier but in flight it was deemed quieter and quicker. The pilot at the time had been spoken to. Pete Sizer said that GoSkyDive does take any issues raised very seriously, talking to the pilots, looking at flight radar tracking and so on if they receive a complaint, and that they do not brush off any complaints or comments.

Jamie Freeman said that the noise figures on the new GoSkyDive aircraft were much improved over the figures previously produced. Turbines are quicker.

Brian Bristow had raised a complaint on behalf of one of his parishioners concerning the flying height of a particular aircraft and Jamie Freeman had replied both to Brian and to the parishioner direct.

A resident living just east of Frittenden with long term Covid issues had raised a complaint about noise/overflying. Lester Gosbee knew the resident's location and felt that the aircraft was flying a bit more southerly at that point. Jamie Freeman said that they would not normally infringe on Frittenden as they were usually a long way south but conceded that it was possible that it was a busy day. He was aware of one aircraft doing circuits and he did get it changed.

There had been a complaint about an aircraft reported to be a Stearman flown by Aero Legends. This was the second time the lady had complained having previously spoken to staff in the Flying School and to Jamie Freeman direct. The aircraft was, however, within SERA rules, being above 500ft, but the issue had been reported to Aero Legends. It was

established that the pilot was leaving the aerodrome having completed his day's detail and returning to his home base.

6. Any other Business

Martin Round was aware that the demographic of the area had changed in the last 3 years. He was also aware that it had been a lesser flying year. Martin Round, currently Deputy Mayor, spoke briefly of his hopes and his position of Mayor in May 2025: Celebrating his home Headcorn., Sutton Valence School with its 170th Anniversary., and possible planned visit to Beauvais. Mid Kent Aviation Ltd had offered to fly him there. This departure may fall during the Battle of Britain show. He was hoping for a number of activities, sports opportunities and others involving Headcorn Aerodrome.

Ben Perkins confirmed that the Battle of Britain show would represent the 85th anniversary and mentioned that this year would also be the 80th anniversary of VE Day to mark the end of the war.

Chris Yates and Aero Legends were working closely on behalf of Headcorn Aerodrome with the Big Cat Sanctuary. He reminded the Committee that Jamie Freeman's wife, Valerie Freeman, was also involved with the Big Cat Sanctuary in her professional position as a Veterinary Surgeon, so there were many links here. He would undertake the usual work for the planning.

Meeting Closed at 5mins past 3pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th March at 2.30 in Wings Bar.

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