



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

Minutes of an Air Traffic Committee Meeting held in The Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Friday 27th February 2015 at 9.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury (left at 10.10am), and Mr Howden and Mr Robinson

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were none

1. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting:** No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.
2. **To receive and approve apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Mrs Hull (holiday)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** All members said that they had had discussions with a number of residents about the increase in the noise over recent months.
5. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **23rd January 2015**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
6. **Public Open Session:** Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.

There were no members of the public present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** A copy of a letter to Gatwick had been received with interesting statistics from Mr Crutchley. Cllr Barrington-Johnson will contact him and invite him to the next meeting
8. **Meeting with Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL):** After some confusion on the part of GAL it transpired that the meeting with GAL on 25th February was not open to Speldhurst Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Podbury attended as an observer.

A meeting with GAL is to be arranged and the Clerk was requested to ensure that the meeting was booked and that optional dates were offered to ensure maximum attendance.

9. Airports Commission Autumn consultation: Cllr Barrington-Johnson expressed concern that with over 50,000 responses sent overall, a large number could remain unread. **The clerk was requested to ask Greg Clark MP for a copy of his response**

10. To consider the next actions regarding the concentration of flight paths, airbus noise and night flights:

- a) To review actions after the meeting with GAL
- b) Noise – two approaches – flight paths and height of aircraft and also specific aircraft e.g. confusion over Gatcom minutes about how many aircraft had been retro-fitted.
- c) MEPs and the EU – Cllr Barrington-Johnson to draft letters and preferably to be sent from High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group
- d) Letter to EasyJet – Cllr Barrington-Johnson to draft and to be sent from Speldhurst Parish Council Air Traffic Committee

There is a Gatwick Airspace Seminar on March 4th that Cllr Barrington-Johnson and Mr Howden will attend.

11. Consideration of the content of the Air Traffic web page: Cllr Barrington-Johnson will draft a new introduction to the webpage to explain what the committee is doing now that the consultation is finished.

12. Items for information: Mr Howden said that he is in the process of completing a lengthy document on the subject of a possible 'Strategy for Managing aircraft Noise from Gatwick' One of its conclusions is that an immediate benefit for all those in the area blighted by aircraft noise could be achieved if tracks could be restored to the west, to avoid aircraft from flying over populated and sensitive areas around Tunbridge Wells. The report would be available on 4 March and would be passed to the Clerk for information.

The meeting closed at 10.25am

Chairman