



FARNBOROUGH AERODROME CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

16th September 2021

Held at

Rushmoor Council Offices, Farnborough, in the Council Chamber.

Approved 21st October 2021.

In Attendance:

Philip	Riley	Chairman
Whittacre	Hope	Secretary
Gareth	Andrews	Farnborough Airport Ltd
Rod	Cooper	Hampshire County Council
Ian	Dickson	NATS
Les	Freer	Farnborough Airport Ltd
Ben	Gleeson	Farnborough International
Simon	Geere	Farnborough Airport Ltd
Norman	Lambert	Crandall Parish Council
Steven	Hunt	Farnborough College of Technology
Marwan	Khalek	GAMA Aviation Ltd
Geoff	Marks	FARA
James	Radley	Hart District Council
Jenny	Radley	Fleet & Church Crookham Society
Maurice	Sheehan	Rushmoor Borough Council
Paul	Taylor	Rushmoor Borough Council
Miles	Thomas	Farnborough Airport Ltd

Item 1

Apologies Received:

Cllr Chris Axam	Hart District Council
Virginia Barrett	Farnborough College of Technology
Cllr Brian Edmonds	Farnham Town Council
Walley Epton	WJE Associates
Sarah Kingsley	Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut RS
Cllr Gareth Saunders	Church Crookham Parish Council

Item 2. Introduction & Overview From the Chairman and Cllr James Radley

The Chairman welcomed the Committee to the first physical meeting of the FACC for two years.

The Chairman welcomed to new members to the Committee –

Sarah Kingsley from Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Residents' Assoc;
and Rod Cooper from Hampshire County Council.

The Chairman then made the following points:

The DfT Guidelines recommend that Consultative Committees review their constitutions periodically and it was agreed at the meeting in February 2021 that a sub-committee under the chairmanship of James Radley would be formed to undertake a review. The sub-committee has met twice and a revised constitution has been circulated to members.

Comments have now been received from a number of members and the Secretary has circulated a revised draft which you have all seen.

The sub-committee also discussed the possibility of inviting new members to join the Committee and this meeting will discuss that issue together with three further documents, the Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference and Public Questions Procedures, which have been circulated.

The purpose of this meeting is to agree the changes to the constitution and to consider membership and the additional documents that have been tabled.

Cllr Rod Cooper introduced himself, currently a councillor for Hampshire CC and Rushmoor Borough Council and spent a career of 40 years in the operational side of the aviation business. Cllr Cooper joins the Committee to represent Hampshire CC in place of Roland Dibbs who sadly died in July. Please see the tribute from the Chairman below.

James Radley - Hart District Council, the chairman of the sub-committee established to review the constitution, outlined the review process and conclusions detailed in Appendix 2.

James Radley summarised this as follows. As a result of The Airspace Change Process (ACP), new areas of the region such as Guildford and Woking were now being overflowed by aircraft landing and taking off from Farnborough Airport Ltd (FAL) and it seemed logical that these areas should have representation at the FACC.

ACP also meant that areas previously overflowed had seen a reduction in aircraft activity. When approached to stand down from the Committee, none of these areas felt this appropriate, so it had been decided to increase the membership and number of representatives.

In doing this it was also important to retain the overall balance of the Committee between: the Users, the Local Authorities, and the Local Interest Groups.

All at the meeting agreed with this assessment.

Item 3. Discussion & Review of Additions & Changes.

James Radley explained, subject to Committee ratification, it was proposed to increase the Committee from 24 to 30 Members, with the numbers in the three respective groups increasing from 8 to 10. This would allow Woking and Guildford Borough Councils to be invited to join the Local Authorities group, and for two new members to apply and join the Local Interest group and two new members appointed to the Users group by FAL.

James Radley added, to reflect the issues around climate change, one of the new members in the Local Interest Group should be an environmental group.

All at the meeting agreed with these proposals.

The discussion turned to the process by which the two new places in the Local Interest Group would be chosen. It was agreed applications would be invited and assessed by the Committee. As regards the environmental interest, it would be critical to demonstrate an established local connection and a desire to work with the airport on matters on its agenda.

Simon Geere – FAL said that FAL supported the new proposals. FAL had reviewed and supported the proposed changes in the Constitution as a package. If the balance of the changes were altered through edit or addition, this support would be subject to further review.

Marwan Khalek – GAMA Aviation Ltd asked how new members would be selected.

The Chairman responded, the Committee would select the new members, following review of their submissions, by consensus.

JR felt the real driver was the ACP, those areas that now saw a new level of aviation activity should have the right of representation.

Many commented it was important that local parish councils had appropriate representation. James Radley and the Chairman suggested Ewshot Parish Council as a potential candidate.

All at the meeting agreed.

The discussion continued.

Marwan Khalek was concerned the process of selecting new members had to be managed in such a way as to protect the FACC from unfair criticism. Unsuccessful applicants could use the situation erroneously, potentially damaging the reputation of the FACC, this would be ironic given the Committee is trying to meet the requests of all stakeholders.

This was generally accepted by the Members.

Additionally, the introduction of a Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference and Public Questions Procedures were tabled. Subject to the discussions in the meeting, the corrections and amendments made, these documents were approved by all at the meeting.

The Secretary indicated that the proposed inclusion of Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference and Public Questions Procedures are as a result of conversations with UKACC, both Stansted and Gatwick Consultative Committees, a review of DfT guidelines for consultative committees and a discussion with RBC.

Jenny Radley -Fleet & Church Crookham Society, kindly talked to changes to all three documents she had submitted. This will be reflected in the latest drafts.

Item 4. Discussions & Review of Draft Documents.

The amendment to voting was the main issue of discussion.

Simon Geere made the point that the FACC was a forum for consultation between stakeholders, not a vehicle to police or set down directives or guidelines, nor an opportunity for routine or operational complaints. Its role is to consult and reach agreement by consensus.

Jenny Radley said she was unhappy with the proposed voting whereby a majority of 75% was required to pass a motion. She felt this change would be very hard to explain to the public and be open to criticism. A simple majority vote had worked for the FACC for the past 18 years. Her views were shared by some in the room.

Simon Geere returned to his point that agreement should be reached by consensus rather than through voting. In the unlikely event a vote was called for, without the 75% threshold the balance of Committee being made up of a third Users, a third Local Authorities and a third Local Interest Groups, could not be achieved while allowing all an equal say. This was fundamental to the make-up of the Committee and reiterated, the Airport would only support the proposed changes to the Constitution as a package.

James Radley summarised the issue. His natural sense led him to feel a simple majority was appropriate but in consideration, he would accept the 75% voting as he could not think of a way the protect the third, third, third nature of Committee should a vote be called. He added that he hoped common sense would prevail in specific circumstances.

Jenny Radley suggested the Overview in the Constitution could be improved upon and submitted draft language. All agreed.

As previously reported, the Committee agreed to the increase in membership as outlined above. In the case of the User Group these will be nominated by FAL. In the case of the Local Authorities and Local Interest Groups these will be subject to a process of application, review and approval of the Committee, as yet to be agreed. There was a discussion in this regard with no conclusion.

Item 5. Approval of Proposed Changes & Recommendation to the Committee.

The Secretary took an action to amend the draft documents to reflect the discussion of the day, the correction and amendment agreed and to re-circulate these to the Members.

The draft documents as presented and amended in the course of this meeting were approved and recommended for approval at the next meeting.

The Chairman made the point that this was the forum for any Member to bring their concerns, thoughts and proposals for the new constitution and ample opportunity had been provided to do this. At the next meeting the draft package would be presented and approved.

Additionally, the introduction of a Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference and Public Questions Procedures were tabled. Subject to those discussions above, corrections and amendments these were approved by all at the meeting.

Item 6. Approval of Proposed Changes & Recommendation to the Committee.

The Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Roland Dibbs who died in July and reflected on his contribution to the Council. He proposed to set up a fund in Roland's name to support the college of Further Education. The cost of this is £10,000. The Chairman proposed to increase the college of Further Education to £130,000.

Additional to the Code of Conduct, Terms of reference and Public Questions Procedures were tabled. Subject to the following discussion, corrections and amendments were agreed.
After 15 were agreed with the FAL, Miles Thomas – Head of Sustainability & Planning, has decided to move to an exciting new challenge in a completely different industry. It was Miles who compiled, presented and then answered all the questions about the Airports Reports at the FACC meetings.

The Chairman thanked Miles Thomas on behalf of the FACC for all he had done to assist and support the activities of the Committee and register our sincere gratitude for all his efforts.

Miles Thomas – Good luck and all the best for the future.

Item 7 Date of Next Committee Meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on: **Thursday 21st October 2021.**

At Rushmoor Borough Council Buildings.

Please note - RBC is currently unable to provide a hybrid physical/virtual meeting forum.

The Meeting was declared closed.

Appendix 1

Not discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Roland Dibbs – 1932 – 2021.

Roland had been a member of the Committee from the start, first as a representative for Rushmoor BC and more recently for Hampshire County Council, 19 years of continuous service.

Roland served with distinction on Rushmoor Borough Council having first been elected in 1987, he was elected to Hampshire County Council in 2017 and represented the Farnborough South division for one term. During his time on the Council, he served on Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee, the Regulatory Committee and the Culture and Communities Select Committee.

Appendix 2

FACC Membership and Constitution Review

At the FACC meeting on 18th February it was agreed that a Sub-committee should be formed, under the chairmanship of Cllr James Radley, to consider potential changes to the membership of the committee and its constitution. The Sub-committee has met on two occasions.

The membership of the Sub-committee comprised Geoff Marks, Gareth Saunders, Brian Edmonds, Jenny Radley, Norman Lambert and Les Freer. Philip Riley attended both meetings and Whittacre Hope attended the second meeting, in both cases as observers.

1. Membership of the Committee

It was recognised that, following the changes in the routing of flights from Farnborough following the implementation of the Airspace Change Proposal, some communities were more affected by over-flying than other areas. In particular, Guildford District is more directly affected and Ewshot Parish is closer to the new flightpath, albeit that the air traffic is operating, in some cases, at increased altitudes. It was also noted that Woking District has also been regarded as an area which is significantly affected by flights approaching from and leaving towards the north-east.

The Sub-committee is therefore recommending that Guildford and Woking Borough Councils and Ewshot Parish Council are each invited to appoint one representative to the FACC.

It has also been recognised that, since the effects of aviation on the environment have become more widely known, an opportunity should be offered to an environmental campaigning group to have a seat on the FACC.

The Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees (April 2014) recommends that Airport Consultative Committees should broadly comprise 3 main interest groups – operators, local authorities and other organisations with an interest in the airport. In the case of Farnborough, these three categories have always been represented on the FACC in equal numbers. If this balance is to be maintained, it is proposed that the Committee should be expanded to 30 members comprising:

10 members representing users
10 members representing local authorities; and
10 members representing local interest groups

If the proposal to invite an organisation representing a local environmental group is accepted by the Committee, it is suggested that applications from relevant groups should be submitted to the Secretary and should include the following information:

- Its full name
- The number of local residents that it represents
- A copy of its constitution
- A statement of the reasons why it believes that it can contribute to the work of the Committee

The selection process should apply the advice set out in the Guidelines

It should be noted that any changes to the membership of the Committee will require the approval of 75% of the members present at the meeting at which the membership changes are proposed.

2. Constitution

The revised constitution has been circulated to members. The main changes from the original constitution adopted in August 2003 are as follows:

- (i) Section 2 – A new purpose has been added to include the scrutiny by the Committee of any governmental and other reports which are relevant to the operation of the airport.
- (ii) Section 3 – A paragraph has been added which requires member organisations to re-confirm their representation annually. This replaces a provision which entitles members to retain a seat on the Committee for two years.
- (iii) Section 3 – A paragraph has been added to provide that an organisation which fails to ensure that its representative attends 3 consecutive meetings it may be removed from the membership of the Committee.
- (iv) Section 5 – The section dealing with expert advice has been transferred from section 3.
- (v) Section 6 – Time limits are to be set for questions from members of the public and the overall period for public questions is limited to 15 minutes.
- (vi) Section 12 – A provision has been added to enable meetings to be held electronically. Notices of meetings are to be communicated on the website and in the local press.
- (vii) Section 13 - Changes to the constitution can be approved by 75% of the members present at a meeting of the Committee. The constitution is to be reviewed at five year intervals or earlier if the Committee decides is necessary.

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