



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 Thursday 30th October 2014 at 11am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Hull, and Mr Howden

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:** Mr Robinson (prior engagement)
- 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 **25th September 2014**, 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:** The Clerk advised that since the Committee had set up distribution lists to members of the public for the purpose of forwarding relevant information that he had been inundated with people responding to them requesting further information. He did not have the time or the knowledge to answer all of their questions. He was advised to forward the e-mails to the Committee Chairman who would respond on behalf of the committee.

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) is organising a public meeting on Saturday 22nd November at the Apple Tree Centre, Ifield Avenue, Crawley (2pm-3pm) when MPs explain why they oppose a second runway. Four Councillors are attending.

It was discussed and agreed not to post the poster on the notice boards or website but that they would encourage people to put them up in prominent places throughout the Parish.

- 8. To identify a preferred track(s) for inbound aircraft:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson suggested that the Committee should propose that the Full Council should adopt a preferred option for inbound flights. He said that, in his opinion, a single track option that blighted the lives of those affected was unacceptable. There was much discussion and the opinion was that a broad swathe with a more balanced spread was the better option. Mr Howden said that he thought that this was probably not going to happen and that a single route would be adopted. If so he considered the route over Ashdown Forest to the ILS point near Edenbridge would affect the least people. The Committee agreed that the following be proposed to the Council for adoption at the November meeting:

Approach from the East - Our strong preference is to see a broad swathe area for arrival paths used on a continuous basis. In 2010 arrival approaches were as far west as Dormansland but by 2014 the western boundary had moved east to Cowden, and with a marked concentration between Groombridge/Penshurst on the west and Langton/Chiddingstone on the east.

We wish to see the western boundary moved back at least to Dormansland and for incoming flights when arriving from the east to be spread evenly throughout the day over the whole swathe such that the 2013/14 concentration is eliminated.

- 9. Airports Commission Autumn consultation:** the committee is awaiting developments and the consultation is expected within the next two weeks.
- 10. Items for information:** The Clerk referred to the email from KCC John Davies regarding his decision not to table the question to Cabinet following further information regarding KCC's stance on the issue. The Clerk was requested to reply to Cllr Davies expressing disappointment and frustration that the subject had not been publicly debated but understanding his position. The Clerk explained that the future of the website was up for discussion when a decision would be made at the November Full Council meeting. Meanwhile he said that the present site should have information for residents about who to write to and protest, who to copy and the salient points that they could mention. This was agreed. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she believed that progress was being made at TWBC regarding the whole aircraft noise issue and that it may be debated by Council in the near future.

The meeting closed at 12.03pm

Chairman