



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 25th September 2014 at 2.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Soyke (left at 3.25pm), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Hull, Barrington-Johnson, and Mr Robinson

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were none

- 1. Election of Chairman:** It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Barrington-Johnson as Chairman.
- 2. 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.
- 3. To receive and approve apologies and reason for absence:** Mr Howden (prior engagement)
- 4. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated **16th June 2014**, copies having previously been forwarded to Members, be approved and signed as a correct record.
- 7. 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.

- 8. Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There was a discussion on the matter of keeping interested parties informed of the latest developments. The Clerk said he had an up to-date list of people and would circulate information from the committee when he was told to do so. It was suggested and agreed that this information should also be published in village magazines to keep the public informed and so as not to lose momentum of the campaign.

- 9. Air Traffic Website:** It was considered necessary to continually update the web page and keep it fresh. It was agreed that the present information would be copied on a word document and be available but that fresh information was needed. Cllr Barrington-Johnson will send the Clerk an update.
- 10. Issues to be discussed with Greg Clark MP:** There was a long discussion on the meeting. Only three members were available to attend the meeting on Friday 3rd October – Cllrs Barrington-Johnson and Mrs Soyke with Mr Howden which was thought to be an appropriate number. The Clerk would note the questions, which have to be sent to Greg Clark in advance, and circulate before sending. The questions would be in the form of “what are you doing; what can you do; what advice do you have and how can you help”.
- 11. Issues to be brought before TWBC:** Cllr Mrs Soyke is in the process of encouraging TWBC to formulate an Aircraft policy. Cllrs Mayhew, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, is keen that Matthew Balfour submits regular reports to the Conservative group at TWBC on all aircraft issues.
It was suggested that as the election approaches that local standing Councillors and candidates are written to asking what their stance is to the aircraft noise issue.
- 12. Airports Commission Autumn consultation:** Little was known about this consultation which is scheduled to start mid-October and the committee is awaiting developments.
- 13. HWCAAG:** Further budget information was still not forth coming. It was noted that Southborough were making a decision on whether to join HWCAAG today. Cllr Barrington-Johnson had updated the Stakeholder matrix.
- 14. Future projects:** Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Hull were trying to establish an organisation within Speldhurst to be a voice on local matters and wider issues affecting the village.
Cllr Barrington-Johnson suggested that Speldhurst Parish Council should write to BA and Easyjet (with copies to our MP, DfT, CAA and GAL) along the lines of other Councils regarding the whine on Airbus A219/320/321 series. He would draft a letter for circulation and presentation to the Council to be signed. Letters to Sir Stelios Haji-Loannou would be considered in the future.
Mr Robinson thought that consideration should be given to who we write to or copy in future – for example the opposition and Private Secretaries.
- 15. Items for information:** There were none.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm

Chairman