

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rochester Airport Consultative Committee (RACC) held at
Rochester Airport, Chatham on 19th February 2015 at 17:00**

Present:

M. Moulton (MM) - (Chairman) – MAPS Ltd
C. Brightwell (CM) – Arion Aviation Ltd (AAL)
P. Britten (PB) – Rochester Airport Ltd (RAL)
K. Carr (KC) – Rochester Airport Ltd (RAL)
T. Clark (TC) – Medway Borough Council (MBC)
S. Griffin (SG) – Medway Borough Council (MBC)
R. Heaps (RH) – MAPS Ltd
A. Jarrett (AJ) – Medway Borough Council (MBC)
K. Maurer (KM) – Gyro School (GS)
M. Robbins (MR) – Microlight School (MS)
P. Rudd (PR) – Skytrek Flying School (SFS)
S. Smith (SS) – BAe Systems (BAeS)
A. Sullivan (AS) – Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC)
N. Tiller (NT) – Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC)
S. Wang (SW) – Fly Aviation UK (FA UK)

P. Gould (PG) - Secretary

1. Welcome to New Members & Apologies for any Absence:

In the temporary absence of the Chairman KC opened the meeting at 17:00.

Each member present took their turn to introduce themselves and their organisation to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from: Garry Price, Skytrek Flying School; Phil Cole, MAPS; Dick Searle, Rochester Airport Ltd; Claire Cunningham, Holiday Inn, Rochester; Dan Gilson, AV8; Farley Norman, Innovation Centre and Anne Chapman, local resident group.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 4th September 2014:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2014 were accepted and signed as a true record.

MM arrived at 17:06 and introduced himself to the meeting.

Afternote: In relation to item 7. Para 4 of those Minutes - KM confirmed that the Auto Gyros at Rochester Airport do have silencers fitted as standard.

3. Matters Arising not covered in the Agenda:

There were no matters arising.

The list of delegates had been updated and MM said it was pleasing that so many people had an interest in Rochester Airport. Complaints had been dealt with and it was good that silencers had been implemented on the Gyrocopters.

4. Membership Organisations and Delegates:

MM thanked everyone for the excellent work that had been done.

5. Progress on the Airport Master Plan:

The Airport had gone through the planning process with Medway Borough Council and PB said Planning Permission had been received with all the conditions offered up. There is a small portion of the Airport in TMBC ward on which we await confirmation. It is hoped this will be going through the next Planning Meeting on 19th March. A couple of problems relating to noise had been resolved and the situation improved. It is hoped this would be acceptable so that TMBC would take the necessary action on our Planning Application. The Airport would then be in a position to issue notices of tenders. When, and if, permission is granted we will go ahead straight away. The tender will run for 4-6 weeks as it is not a big or difficult tender.

Phil Rudd arrived at 17:20

After taking advice it was decided that work will commence on the runway and hangar 3 straight away. As soon as the new runway is complete and open runway 34 will then close. We would try to consolidate the work rather than stretch it to minimise the time of the construction and believe the total project should take 9-12 months.

A formal launch will take place at the Airport to celebrate and thank all those who have helped over the past 10-15 years. This will be a private event funded by RA Limited.

6. Airport Manager's Report:

A report had been prepared by KC for the meeting and is attached to these Minutes.

TC asked if ATC squadrons and school visits would be accommodated in the new plan. KC said they would as better facilities would be available in the larger control tower, better access to hangars, the use of a new board room, a new café and better car parking facilities.

7. Airspace and Related Issues:

KC reported that Southend had gone ahead with their Airspace Proposal, although it was somewhat smaller. Their Airspace allows planes to fly below 1,500' without contacting them until very close to Southend, which is an improvement and more workable than it was before. Rollout had not been officially notified to RA Limited but will be introduced 2nd April.

MM said one concern had been noise which Rochester Airport might be accountable for and is something we should keep an eye on.

RACC had made representation but had no serious worries.

8. Aircraft Preservation and Potential New Investment:

RH said the situation at MAPS remained as in the previous Minutes and they were putting effort in to the fuselage and wings on the Shorts Scion seaplane in order to show progress to sponsors. The University of Greenwich would be scanning the float next week. MAPS are concerned about the impact on the programme with moving from their existing building into a new building.

KM and CB left the meeting.

MAPS was facing a closing window bounded by Scion progress and sponsorship and the need to find additional work to cover overheads. MM handed out copies of the MAPS CHAT newsletter, which is published roughly monthly, and would be happy to e-mail to anyone who requests it.

MAPS had earlier announced a vision of a heritage centre at the airport and some individuals were trying to put together a request for lottery funding. So far they had identified trustees and an archives section to preserve heritage and were currently inviting other expert participation.

RH said that the project was also looking to the future, with education etc. School groups cannot be accepted at the moment, but it is hoped this can be resolved in future. 'Aviation Medway' was something that would attract people.

9. Other Business:

KC said that Ian Hargreaves of Medway Astrological Society had been in touch and believes light pollution is not as bad as first thought, there could be collaboration between RACC, MAPS and themselves to establish an observatory. They have applied for sponsorship and are certain that some of that funding is forthcoming, which may possibly also help with the proposed heritage centre.

MM said he was encouraged by the support from everyone around the table.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 17:45.

10. Next Meeting: Day, Date & Time:

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting be set once planning details had been agreed.

Signed

Dated