

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rochester Airport Consultative Committee (RACC) held at
Rochester Airport, Chatham on 18th March 2016 at 17:00**

Present:

M. Moulton (MM) - (Chairman) – MAPS Ltd
P. Britten (PB) – Rochester Airport Ltd (RAL)
K. Carr (KC) – Rochester Airport Ltd (RAL)
T. Clarke (TC) – Medway Borough Council (MBC)
R. Heaps (RH) – MAPS Ltd.
P. Cole (PC) – MAPS Ltd.
P. Rudd (PR) – Skytrek Flying School (SFS)
S. Smith (SS) – BAE Systems (BAES)
A. Chapman (AC) - Local resident group.
G. Chapman (GC) - Local resident group.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 17:00.

Chairman's introductory remarks, on welcoming new members.

For the information of new members, Airport Advisory Committees come under the jurisdiction of HMG Department for Transport in accordance with section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. Put simply, we are a forum for information exchange between the Airport and other interested parties and may give advice where appropriate. We are set up and funded by the Airport Management and our members represent approved organisations, large and small. Proceedings are published on the RACC web site, which is part of the Rochester Airport site, the Web Master being Paul Britten. Any statement you make may therefore be on the record, unless all present deem otherwise.

Members present took turns to introduce themselves and their organisations.

Apologies had been received from: Garry Price, Skytrek Flying School; Dick Searle, Rochester Airport Ltd; N. Tiller (NT) – Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC); Claire Cunningham, Holiday Inn, Rochester; P. Gould (PG) – Secretary.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19th February 2015:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2015 were accepted and signed as a true record with the correction of a couple spelling errors: An "e" to be added to Trevor Clarke and a capital "E" for BAE Systems.

3. Matters Arising not covered in the Agenda:

There were no matters arising.

Phil Rudd arrived at 17:08

4. Planning Application progress:

PB gave an up-date report and this is attached to these minutes.

A discussion was had around the up-date. It is hoped a planning committee meeting will be held during April. TBC.

5. Airport Manager's Report:

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

6. Airspace and Related Issues:

KC reported that Southend had just started consultation for their new SID's. This should benefit those who live in Medway as the departing aircraft from Southend should be higher when they pass over the Medway Towns.

7. Aircraft Preservation and Potential New Investment:

RH said the situation at MAPS remained as in the previous Minutes and they were making good progress with the Short's Scion.

MAPS still have a Merlin Engine in the workshop, waiting to be advised what happens next by the owner. The other two Merlin's have been returned to their owners and one of these will be brought back into use.

Working on a couple of propeller blades.

PC had found a Pop Joy engine, which MAPS have purchased and will be imported from Holland.

Lewis Deal has stood down as MD of MAPS, Phil Cole has taken over this position. Robin Heaps has taken on Phil Cole's role of Company Secretary of MAPS.

The Rochester Bridge Trust grant lasts for a further 3 years.

TC asked a question about the Heritage Building. RH replied that until the planning has been agreed, nothing more could be done. MAPS are working with the Airport and the Heritage site should follow on once the building works get going.

8. Other Business:

GC – Surprised that Rochester Airport had so few complaints.

TC – Advised of the new Fire Station & Road Safety Site that had just been completed at the end of February 2016.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 17:55.

9. 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

P	09-Apr-15	Thursday	13:00-14:00	Unknown	Unknown	Not a complaint as no name or address was given. Complaining about Autogyros
P	07-May-15	Thursday	12:15	Mr F	Cornwall Road ME1	Complaint about Helicopter (Autogyro) went on to say the zombies shouldn't fly over his house, what about the noise factor (Autogyro 6 ccts) Told me I was not educated wanted to speak with my Boss, I told him I was the Boss etc. Repeated this several times. then asked for the complaints department, I said I was the complaints department. He then hung up!
P	10-May-15	Sunday	16:30	Mr B	Maidstone Road B/Hill	Was out in his garden and could not help but notice it. Then stated one or two aircraft and ended up at three. I told him that there was an echo on the phone, he then ended the call following my comments that the complaints are logged.
E-mail	22-May-15	Friday	11:43	Mr B	Maidstone Road B/Hill	Low flying over Maidstone Road Blue Bell Hill Gp1 (Poss DR400 heading to Calais) PB Replied.
P	21-Jun-15	Sunday	16:00 ish	Unknown	Maidstone Road area	Not a complaint but an information request about how long is the helicopter going to be running for. AS-355 was running for 10-15 min to heli hop onto AV8 pad, when advised the lady was happy didn't want to complain but wanted to know when it was going to stop.
P	24-Jun-15	Wednesday	16:37	Mr C	City Way	Low flying aircraft, PA32 16:16 & PA32 Low flying at approx. 200' with power coming into land
P	02-Jul-15	Thursday	09:43	Mr M	Blenheim Ave	Helicopter noise! I advised that it should be stopping soon and would start again at 16:30 hours. Corporate day at Buckmore for an Essex Company. Also advised that I would request that they come in higher if possible.
P	02-Jul-15	Thursday	09:51	Unknown	Top end City Way?	Local resident called to ask about the helicopters as there seem to be a lot of them, advised about the Corporate Day seemed happy with the answer. Would not give name or address.
P	02-Jul-15	Thursday	09:54	Mr M	House Built 1919	Lived in his house for 34 years, what are we going to do to stop the helicopters and aircraft flying over his house? It is unacceptable. He will form a committee to complain and get a business park built here! Would not give his address or phone number
P	03-Jul-15	Friday	16:30	Unknown	Unknown	Not a complaint as no name or address was given. Complaining about Autogyros ccts 3 completed and asked how many more times is he going over my house? Advised that the detail was complete and he may be back for another 2 or 3 more and then he will be off. If its more I will be back on the phone!
P	01-Sep-15	Tuesday	14:24	Mr W	Refused	Asked what idiot is doing circulating Junction M2 over my house. Helimed 60A who was waiting for the M2 to be closed before landing. Can they fly that low, Yes KC replied. Mr W then stated that in the circumstance its OK.
P	23-Oct-15	Friday	11:00	Mr S	Bell Lane Burham	Asked for the A/Hole doing PFL's over the Burham School to stop. He will take it further with the appropriate authority. Had all this problems back in 2004 it is not right! Mr S was very agitated and hung up before any reply could be made. KC made a request via the FISO to change the location of PFLs if possible, the instructor was happy to do so. KC spoke with the new instructor when he returned to the club and explained Mr S complaint about PFL's over the school etc.
E-mail	03-Dec-15	Thursday	17:16	Mss O'B	Walderslade	Questions about a couple of helicopter fly over her house and others talking about it on Street. A couple of nights ago, around midnight or a bit later. PB replied as numerous military helicopters have been around day and night.
E-mail	30-Jan-16	Saturday	16:42	Mr B	Not Supplied (BB/Hill)	Brought to his attention 20 Jan aircraft landed at 07:14 hours? Wanted us to confirm and reason for this out of hours activity. Reply sent 1 Feb 2016 no one had landed!

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT TO ROCHESTER AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 18th March 2016

From the Watch Log

RFFS put on standby for various incidents. Rough running engines, a number of landing gear issues, weather standbys. One incident aircraft G-FLIP, the nose leg gave way upon landing with a solo student. I am pleased to report no injuries on any of these incidents.

Noise Complaints

I report 14 questions/complaints, 6 of these are noise complaints since our last meeting.

Airport Security

A couple of fence posts have been broken during the last year down Laker Road.

Hangar 3 alarm went off for no apparent reason 04:00 hours 3rd October last year.

Transport Police wanted to conduct 2-night flight operations during November, due to the weather none of these took place. Network rail, policing the railway lines in the South East.

February, Travelers in the Holiday Inn car park, stayed for less than 4 hours, due to the Holiday Inn Duty Manager.

CAA had a Ramp check day on a visiting aircraft and on another day Ramp checked AV8 last year.

General

Since our last meeting 6 scout/cub groups (90 children given an insight into the Airport, a tour of control tower and hangars, the tour also included an overview of an aircraft.) With another 6 already planned for this Year.

7 local schools visited, with a total of 160 children.

5 local groups visit 64 people in total.

2 Kent Fire and Rescue (KFRS) visit to support the ongoing training for KFRS personnel.

14 work experience pupils have been supported by Rochester Airport, with another 11 planned for later in the Year.

Operation Propeller, 7 second world war veterans flew from Rochester in 3 aircraft.

Good Friday spot landing competition cancelled due to poor weather took place on May Bank Holiday, 21 aircraft took part.

Aircraft movements were down November to date due to weather. Busiest Months being June-August with August being the busiest month of the year.

Air Watch had a number of successful meetings in the airport café and a number of exercises in the local area.

A number of ATC squadrons have used the airport for drill and band practice and 1404 squadron annual inspection last October.

Continuing to support local group with car parking. (Anne Chapman/Southern Highlanders/Graham Underwood)

Model flying evenings continue to be successful.

September 2016 Jeff Pay from Southend visited for a follow up meeting to see how things are going since the airspace changes.

January 2016 CAA/GASCO Safety Evening with over 100 in attendance.

Army from Maidstone 36, last July had an exercise at the airfield involving 40 staff.

BBC Watch Dog filming at Rochester with reference to Drones.

Southend are consultation on their SID's

NATS LAMP project has been implemented over the Rochester area.

Brenden O'Brian Flying Circus

Kelvin Carr, Airport Manager, Rochester Airport Ltd.

RACC MEETING 18th MARCH 2016

History

Planning permission was granted by Medway Council on the 4th February 2015. Tonbridge & Malling Council were making their decision six weeks later. A day before the T & M meeting a Judicial Review of Medway's decision was presented to the High Court by a local resident. T & M decided to pull the application from their meeting pending a High Court decision.

The main grounds for the review were:

1. Treatment of Area of Natural Beauty policies.
2. Breach of EIA regulations.

Before any hearing the application is reviewed by a High Court judge who looks at the validity of any claim. The Judge decided on the 21st May 2015 that 'the reasons can be argued.'

The case was set for the 11th November 2015 and due to the costs involved Rochester Airport Ltd decided against legal representation.

We do not claim to understand all of the legal arguments that have been made but at the hearing new evidence was presented by the claimant leading to an eventual adjournment for a rehearing at an undetermined later date. It later transpired that this rehearing could be at any time up to June 2016.

In January 2016 Medway Council conceded certain grounds and effectively planning permission was quashed. The application now needs redetermining.

In the Chancellors 2015 autumn statement Rochester Airfield was granted enterprise zone status. This is a major incentive for Medway Council to push forward the airport redevelopment as quickly as possible.

Where are we now.

Although we were told that the application would be redetermined in February 2016 it is apparent that Medway Council are ensuring that the application is watertight this time. Last Friday the screening opinion in respect of an EIA was redetermined and it was decided that an EIA was not required. Moving forward this should clear the way for a Planning meeting shortly.

In the background Tonbridge & Malling have been posting documents that have been supplied subsequent to their last proposed determination on their planning portal for comment. Hopefully this will ensure no delays to their decision.

All of this is out of our hands and although we are keen for a speedy conclusion it is right that the Council are ensuring the application is correct ensuring any future legal challenges would be disallowed.

Other planning matters include applications which could affect the airport. Two planning applications have been objected to pending further information.

1. Stage 2 of the Horsted Park development where an additional noise comment was requested (satisfactory.)
2. ASDA supermarkets who are cladding their roof in solar panels. There was concern regarding solar reflection on the final approach to runway 34. A professional report allayed any fears in this respect.

Finally Medway Council are drafting their new Local Plan. We have made various comments to the issues and options of this draft plan. When the first draft is published we suggest this is circulated to Committee members. It is possible that the RACC may wish to comment at this time.