

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 4th August 2025

PRESENT

Mr A Brown	Director, AAA & interim Chair for the meeting
Mr P Burton	Airfield Operations, WAP
Councillor N Dunn	Great Marlow Parish Council
Mr B Tranter	Booker Common & Woods Protection Society
Mr C Goss	Claymoor Park Residents' Association

(There were 2 members of the public in attendance)

1. A Brown welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

He wished to address an email, which had been received from a member of the JCC who could not be present, stating that this person had some concern that the JCC should not appoint any employee or manager of the air park as Chairman, as the entire purpose of an independent JCC would be brought into question. A Brown confirmed unequivocally that he did not wish to become Chairman and was actively looking for someone to undertake that role. C Goss noted that the minutes had referred to A Brown as interim Chair and felt that this sufficiently clarified his position. Notification of a possible candidate had also been given at the June meeting but unfortunately that person had chosen to no longer engage in correspondence. Dominic Barnes had also been approached but had declined. A Brown advised that he would now reach out to the new councillor on the JCC to ascertain if she might have any appropriate contacts.

Action – S Fryer

If by the next meeting, no new approaches had been found, he proposed putting an advert into the local newspaper. B Tranter also suggested an approach be made to BNU to see if there was an academic in their flight school who might be interested in this position.

Action – P Burton

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from A Mann, N Phillips, Councillor O Hayday and R Russell. Apologies were also recorded from J Brydon and P Fairfax.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2025 were tabled and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were none. A Brown confirmed that the minutes had now been uploaded to the website.

5. **Chairmanship of the JCC**

A Brown had covered this item in his introduction.

6. **WAP website**

A Brown advised that some reformatting of the site had taken place and he was pleased to advise that this now appeared to be working through mobile devices. It had certainly worked with his android device and testing with other mobile handsets had also confirmed this.

Feedback at the last meeting had been that responses from air park staff through jot form did not appear to be coming through. A Brown advised that he believed that a solution to this had now been found and testing appeared to corroborate same. A response would still be sent via jot form, however, he had added a note advising that if further dialogue was needed, the complainant should respond via one of the email addresses provided rather than reply through jot form, which required a login. P Burton added that the reply also gave details of the complaint in terms of the date and time and therefore respondents would be able to track their complaint more easily, particularly if there was more than one made over a couple of days. Additionally, the response would state whether the complaint had been deemed valid.

There had also been a request for a specific tab or button to the noise complaint form. However, it had been considered that this was easily accessible from the home page via the WAP tab, from which a drop down linked to the noise complaint form. Air park management were unclear as to how much of a problem this was, therefore for the time being it would remain as is but if there was a swathe of feeling that it was hard to find, the matter would be reviewed. C Goss asked if there was a way complainants could be asked to feedback on how easy it had been to find the form, which would provide empirical evidence. A Brown agreed to look into that.

Action – A Brown/P Burton

Additionally, the community page now contained copies of JCC minutes and dates of future meetings.

7. Statistics and other updates

P Burton had circulated the documents in advance, which he hoped had been self-explanatory and which showed that movements were slowly declining. He had provided noise complaints from January-July and hoped in future to produce them quarterly. He summarised in that in May 90% of complaints were in regard to helicopters, which was around 6% of movements. This dropped in June to 5.5% of movements and in July just over 1% of movements. In July there had in fact been only 6 complaints for the entire month. In terms of validity of complaints, both in June and July, 50% had been validated. Regular correspondence from the air park management was sent to the operators reminding them of the need to ensure compliance with the NAZ etc.

P Burton also advised the meeting that the Red Atlas platform used for booking flights had an optional field for the pilot's name. This had now been made mandatory and would allow for any messages to be sent directly to pilots. This may have been a contributory factor in terms of the low number of complaints in July as feedback to pilots and operators had been efficient.

It was noted that the number of flights were lower and overall there had been less fixed wing movements. Heliair movements were roughly the same, albeit slightly reduced. P Burton urged all to continue to send in any complaints and he hoped the new automated system would help complainants better manage their responses.

J Barry enquired as to what pipeline flying meant. He was advised that pipeline helicopters could fly through the NAZ and had dispensation from the 500 ft height rule. As a general rule gas pipeline flying took place once a week and was often conducted at low height with pilots either using an infra red camera or their naked eye.

Councillor N Dunn enquired as to what overall percentage of complaints came from the top 3 complainants. A Brown advised that from January-July this was estimated to be circa 80%, of which circa 70% had been valid. These complainants were "in hot spots" where infringements were likely to happen and not spurious complaints as had been the case some years ago. A Brown acknowledged that things were still not perfect but he believed the air park was heading in the right direction.

8. Noise Management & Action Plan Update.

A Brown stated that all comments had now been included and he suggested that this document was now complete and could be ratified. This was agreed and this item would be

removed from future agenda. It had a review date of 5 years, so the next review would take place in 2029.

9. Community Matters

A Brown advised that whilst no complaints had been received in respect of the air display, which had recently taken place, he asked if there was any further feedback. B Tranter advised that he had distributed the email notification and a number of people in the Booker area had been pleased to have had the opportunity to view the aircraft. This particular event had been a closed corporate event for BA but the fact that it had been so well received, including from the CAA, could lead to more air displays taking place at the air park, possibly at the private flyers show that took place each May.

A Brown advised that there was a potential for a charity event (family fun day) in September with a company the air park had not worked with before. The airfield would not be shut and there would be no additional movements. If this did come to fruition, A Brown advised that details would be shared in due course with members of the JCC.

R Russell, Frieth Village Society was yet to confirm the date of the village fete, for which he had asked for respite from flying. P Burton to confirm the date with him which was believed to be either 30 or 31 August.

Action – P Burton

P Burton advised that the air park may also host a charity event on 30 or 31 August for Heart & Soul. This would be an evening event with a live band and all would be welcome. Again, once confirmed details would be shared with JCC members.

Action – P Burton

A Brown would also catch up with R Russell to ensure that there had been no further issue with glider tugs over Frieth.

Action – A Brown

10. AOB

A Brown invited any further suggestions for respite days for any events or if any charity needed a venue for any occasion and confirmed that the air park would consider any request. C Goss noted that the music at the BA event had been quite noisy, due to the fact that the wind had simply been in the wrong direction. He did state however that it had stopped quite early into the evening. A Brown thanked him for the feedback and advised that he would take this into account for future events.

A Brown advised the meeting that there had now been two quite serious incidents, with a contributory factor being the height of some trees at Booker Common. He was therefore actively looking into gaining permission to reduce the height of said trees as their height was beginning to impact on operations. He clarified in that he was talking in terms of lopping in metres and not tens of metres, bringing them back to a height that they were some 10 years ago. Discussion took place as to ownership of said trees and B Tranter, as Chair of Booker Common & Woods Protection Society agreed to work with A Brown to ascertain ownership.

Action – A Brown/B Tranter

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the air park would take place on 20th October.

Discussion took place as to whether this meeting should take place in November in order for there not to be quite such a long gap until the next JCC in 2026, albeit that the intention had been to concentrate JCC meetings in months where there was more flying activity. It was agreed that a note be circulated asking for views.

Action – S Fryer

The meeting closed at 19.20.

