

# **BARSHAM AND SHIPMEADOW PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on 13th January 2021

At 8.00 pm Via Zoom

**Present via Zoom:** ZB, AR, PH, PM, DA & Judy Cloke

**Public Attendance:** Sergei Grachev, Kerry Wilmot and Louise Ward all attended by zoom

**Apologies:** None

**Declarations of Interest:** None

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

These were circulated as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Proposed: PM Seconded: PH ZB signed the minutes

**Public Contribution: 01-0121** A statement was received from Mr Grachev of Church Farm Shipmeadow prior to the meeting. Mr Grachev highlighted a few points of his statement. He requested the statement be included in the minutes. A copy of his statement is attached.

**02-0121** Ms Wilmot advised that she is still awaiting a quote for the second USAAF war memorial plaque and will advise once received.

## **Matters Arising:**

**03-0121** JC advised about the flooding in the area at Christmas

**04-0121** AR offered to look into the flooding areas on the Parish roads, in particular the B1062

**05-0121** Precept 2021. It was decided to maintain the current level of £ 1227.55

## **Planning Matters:**

None

**Correspondence:** All forwarded by e mail

**Financial Matters:** Financial report was logged

**06-0121** Brought forward: £ 7,010.58

Expenditure £ 34: Wreaths x2 for remembrance ceremony cheque nbr 0269

Carried forward: £ 6,976.58

## **Payments to be approved:**

None

## **A.O.B.**

**06-0121** ZB Quiet Lanes, ZB attended Zoom meeting, and will continue Phase 2 and 3

Next scheduled meeting to be confirmed: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 8.00pm.

There being no more business, the meeting was drawn to a close at 9.25pm

Signed:

Dated:

## Church Farm, Shipmeadow Statement for the Parish Council (BSPC) meeting Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Our Ref. 2733-1820-2828

Date: 12.01.2021

1. **Shipmeadow airfield** at Church Farm was established in the early 1980s. It is a United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) acknowledged airfield with its own Aerodrome Safeguarding Map. The planning authorities were advised on the airfield existence and its safeguarding (under Circular 2/92, Annex, Paragraph 9) in 2001.

Shipmeadow aerodrome is a private airstrip, and according to the airfield flying logs, (available since 1983), the frequency of flights from the airfield has and stayed well under 150 flights per year.

Our aim is to keep British light aviation traditions in place, and also help the local charities, such as Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, Lapwing Education (a learning work placement project for special needs kids) and educational institutions. A big part of our mission is to inspire the younger generation to learn to fly and have more opportunities for their future.

We **do not** do pilot training from the airfield in any shape or form. This would seriously increase the flying activity and have a negative effect on the local community, which we care a great deal about.

2. **NEBO air** is a government policy-backed feasibility study project regarding the country's Net Zero Eco targets. It is not a commercial operation but a research project. However, we aim to create a buzz about the fact that Britain's first fully-electric Zero Emissions flying initiative, which sends a very encouraging message to the entire nation, was conceived at Shipmeadow.

It also has a vision of bringing eco-conscious visitors to the area which is always of benefit to the local economy! The project is supported by the local MPs.

We would like to take the opportunity to openly share our plans for the future, and provide a few more facts and figures on the BSPC Zoom call, such as environmental effects, lack of noise pollution and other positive impacts that it will have for the local community.

3. **Royal Air Force and other defence training over Shipmeadow airfield.** We would like to clarify BSPC's position on the reference we found in the minutes to the RAF training over Shipmeadow. This is unclear to us if BSPC wants to interfere with the military training and, in its turn, with defence capability of our state.

Here at Shipmeadow, we are surrounded by several military aerodromes, and East Anglia is historically known for its great air force traditions since the WW2. Most small airfields in the area traditionally allows the military to come and visit— it is a true aviation comradery! We have regular communications with Wattisham Air Base and they have asked if they can occasionally come and hover for several minutes over the runway, to which we have agreed. Military helicopters and jet fighter planes perform training flights and manoeuvres over Shipmeadow and Barsham on a regular basis, and allowing them to come and hover over the airfield will not increase the existing frequency of their operations.

Local animal owners, including ourselves, clearly understand that air force operations in this area are part of local life, and endeavour to keep their animals accustomed to it. We contact local residents and the local equestrian community directly and via social media, advising them of any military aviation activities taking place in proximity to Church Farm. We are always open to suggestions in trying to avoid over flying certain areas, but unfortunately, we cannot advise military aircraft where to fly for their training as they are following protocols unknown to us.

**Our position on the matter.** Our position is that the air force needs to train new pilots as it is important for the country's defence to keep in practice and we would like to help this as much as we can. If we do not support the military, who will? It is also encouraging for the younger up-and-coming generation to watch such flying and to be proud of their country's defence forces, and ultimately it may encourage them to consider joining such an honourable and proud profession.

4. **BSPC Representations.** Since October 2020, the BSPC's website has not been available for the public to view, (breaching the requirement of making Parish Councils meeting minutes public). At the same time, behind our

backs and, it appears, in secret, some members of the BSPC were sending representations to different local authorities and members of the local community to raise concerns in an attempt to close down the airfield. The final publishing of the minutes of the meeting, in our opinion, are unclear, and we seek to receive a comprehensive explanation at the BSPC Zoom meeting regarding the following:

- 4.1. It is unclear from the BSPC meetings' minutes whether Zoom calls were held with Peter Aldous. Mr Aldous visited the farm last year and has demonstrated his full support to the NEBO air project. If he was contacted by BSPC, we would like to know details of such communications and its outcome, because it might seriously affect our development;
- 4.2. It is also unclear from the BSPC meetings' minutes whether Tim Passmore was also contacted in regards to our project. If such contact was made, we would like to ask for an official explanation on what was discussed and the final outcome of such contact.
- 4.3. If other representations were made about us and our projects, we would appreciate details of those as well.

In addition to the above, we request this statement to be published as an attachment to Minutes of Meeting of BSPC on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

Sergey Grachev  
on behalf of Church Farm, Shipmeadow and NEBO air project.