

BARSHAM AND SHIPMEADOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 10th February 2021

At 8.00 pm Via Zoom

Present via Zoom ZB, PH , PM , DA

Public Attendance: None

Apologies: JCloke and AR

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

These were circulated as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2021

Proposed : PM Seconded: PH ZB signed the minutes

Public Contribution: None

Matters Arising

08-0221 Flooding : AR to report next meeting

09-0221 Slow ways: PM reported on a Zoom conference call. PM will sign the PC up.

10-0221 Church Farm PH proposed response letter was discussed and some small changes were agreed . The letter will be sent to Church Farm and attached to these minutes.

11-0221 Quiet Lanes ZB advised that Clarkes Lane , Hall Road , Low Road and Ringsfield Road are the registered lanes . The third wave commences in June 2021. Signage needs to be discussed and with possibility of sharing with other PC's

12-0221 CAS virtual conference : ZB gave a recap

13-0221 PC support and endorsement for " A Hall for All " , will be placed on the neighbourhood plan

Planning Matters:

None.

Correspondence: All forwarded by e mail

Financial Matters: Financial report was logged

14-0221 Brought forward : £ 6,976.58

Payments to be approved:

None

A.O.B.

15-0221 War Memorial New Plaque: Awaiting Kerry Wilmot to advise costs.

Next scheduled meeting to be confirmed: Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 8.00pm.

There being no more business , the meeting was drawn to a close at 9.05pm

Signed:

Dated:

BSPC Response to the Church Farm Statement

Your Ref: 2733-1820-2828

Our Ref: Minute 10-0221

Introduction

Barsham & Shipmeadow Parish Council (BSPC) was approached by a resident who had come across a website – Neboair.co.uk – that indicated an expansion of the private airstrip at Church Farm into a commercial venture. BSPC was asked if it was aware of any pre-planning or planning applications for the site.

The terms 'airfield', 'aerodrome', 'private airstrip' are all used in Mr Grachev's statement seemingly to represent the same entity; however we believe a layperson sees these terms as distinctly different, hence the resident's concern.

A 'private airstrip' is seen as having a small amount of personal flying activity with small light aircraft and no commercial activity.

An 'airfield' is a much larger entity with many more and larger light aircraft with a mixture of personal flying and commercial activity. The runway may well be tarmac, rather than grass. It probably will also have a Flight Training School and, to handle the increased traffic safely, there will be a tower providing ATC.

Response to Point 1

Thank you for confirming that there is no pilot training in the conventional sense at Shipmeadow airstrip.

Any confusion here has come about because the Neboair website states that *'Shipmeadow Airfield is the home base of operations for NEBO Air.'* and *'The majority of our pilots are also working as flying instructors which creates a different experience and hence an additional level of safety of flight.'*

The website Flightglobal.com also quotes Mr Grachev "...and to train future pilots to fly fully-electric aircraft," says Grachev.

The resident assumed that pilot training, including flying, would be taking place at the home base and we are happy to be able to report back that in consideration for the local residents pilot training would not be taking place at Shipmeadow Airstrip. There is a flight simulator which is used to introduce young people of all abilities to the joys of powered flight.

Response to Point 2

Thank you for confirming that commercial operations are not planned for Shipmeadow airstrip.

Again BSPC points to the confusing messages on websites.

The Flightglobal website again quotes Mr Grachev *"Our aim is to build up interest in the concept of an emission-free air service before we go down the path of applying*

BSPC Response to the Church Farm Statement

for an expensive AOC [air operator certificate], and launching a commercial operation," says Grachev.

The Neboair website says 'We offer an unforgettable journey from London to the Midlands via our home base in East Anglia.' which certainly implies commercial flight.

In Flyer Magazine dated August 2020 is the following '**Finding Nebo**

A new company called Neboair has been set up in the UK to operate the Pipistrel Velis Electro as an air taxi, making short pre-planned hops from London to the Midlands, working with the UK agent, Fly About Aviation at Damyns Hall.'

Similar entries can be found on the Dutch website *Duurzaam Vliegen* and also on the East of England Energy Group website.

All of which indicates that Shipmeadow Airstrip would be part of a commercial operation.

Response to Point 3

Minute 44-1020 '*Also questioning the Apache activity over Church Farm.*'

Again, this is in relation to a question from a resident who contacted BSPC as they felt that a recent military helicopter training flight had passed nearer to, and lower than normal, over the population centre of Shipmeadow. In addition, rather than flying by, the helicopter appeared to hover or land at Shipmeadow Airstrip resulting in an increase in the noise level of the flight. BSPC was asked if it had any knowledge of this apparent change.

The members of the Parish Council, and the resident, are fully aware of the importance of these military training flights and in no way are trying to interfere with this activity.

In addition the members of BSPC feel the remarks that you and your team members made towards them during your attendance at the meeting suggesting unpatriotic behaviour was uncalled for. Residents have a right to contact their Parish Council over any matter and ask for information or clarification.

Thank you for clarifying that land owners with suitable areas, such as is found at Shipmeadow airstrip, are approached by the military and asked to be allowed to practise manoeuvres on their property. BSPC notes that that this first occurred in February 2020 and there have been 3 further instances during 2020.

We are now able to pass this information back to the resident.

Response to Point 4

BSPC is not aware that the website has been unavailable. We have not been informed of any problems by the company that manage the site. If you find the site is

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not available in the future please email with date/time and if possible the network IP address used and we will immediately take it up with our service supplier.

All enquiries that BSPC has made of the various statutory bodies have been purely to clarify the apparent change of use of Shipmeadow airstrip from private to commercial as implied by the various websites quoted previously in this response. It should be noted that the concerned resident did not have to contact BSPC. They had the right under our open democracy to contact the statutory bodies, their local and district councillors and their MP themselves, and not involve BSPC at any time. Had they taken that course there would be no public record of such communication.

Point 4.1

The references in the minutes to Zoom meetings with Mr Peter Aldous MP were to meetings organised by County Councillor Mr Mark Bee in order that local, district and parish councillors could raise local concerns that affected the East Suffolk area.

Topics included: police response times, anti-social behaviour, speeding, community speed watch, perceived lack of police patrols in rural areas, revised parking charges. At no time was Church Farm/Shipmeadow airstrip raised as a topic as it was not the correct forum to do so.

Point 4.2

There has also been a Zoom meeting with Mr Tim Passmore, set up on the same basis as point 4.1, where Mr Tim Passmore talked in more detail about the huge uplift in police numbers promised by the Prime Minister and what it means for Suffolk Constabulary.

As in point 4.1 at no time was Church Farm/Shipmeadow airstrip raised as a topic as it was not the correct forum to do so.

Point 4.3

An email exchange has also taken place between BSPC and our local Police CEO as the Police would be invited to comment as a concerned party were the activities listed on the various websites to go ahead.

This statement is in response to the written statement provided by Mr Grachev and the comments made by Mr Grachev, Ms Kerry Wilmot and Ms Louise Ward at the January 2021 meeting of BSPC. It was discussed at the BSPC meeting in February 2021 and forms part of the minutes of said meeting.

Zane Blanchard
Chairman Barsham and Shipmeadow Parish Council
February 2021