

**NWEEHPA**  
**47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**6 July 2012**  
**Held at the Silver Jubilee Hall, Takeley**  
**Minutes**

Present: Jangu Banatvala, Tricia Barber, Richard Cheetham, Sarah Cousins, Peter Gowan, John Hume, Irene Jones, Janice McDonald, Ken McDonald, John Pryor, Peter Riding, Brian Ross, Peter Sanders, Barry Stephens, Michele Stephens, Maggie Sutton, Raymond Woodcock, Mike Young

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Colin Barber, Carol Barbone, Jackie Cheetham, David Hall, Audrey Miller, Brian Miller, Martin Peachey, and Sue Roderick.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 June 2011**

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, Peter Sanders.

### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Peter Sanders presented his report as Chairman of both NWEEHPA and SSE. He said that the campaign's priorities remained the same as for last year. It was still our main concern that a second runway at Stansted should be ruled out not only in the short term but in the long term as well. The Government, however, was reviewing its aviation policy and there had been a strong campaign from the aviation industry for extra hub capacity in the south east. Later this month the Government was expected to issue two consultation documents, the first on its general aviation strategy and the second on the alleged need for more hub capacity. It seemed that all possible options would be considered, including an extra runway or runways at Stansted. The campaign's most important task in the coming year would be to respond to these consultations and to resist any proposal for unsustainable expansion at Stansted.

Three other issues were touched on:

Firstly, BAA had responded to our pressure by declaring unequivocally that in due course it would be putting on the market the 300 or so properties that it had bought up in anticipation of a second runway.

Secondly, we had to bear in mind that BAA had the authority to increase its throughput at Stansted to 35 million, about twice the present throughput, and we had to make sure that the environmental impacts of this were mitigated. Martin Peachey, who could not be present at the meeting, had sent in a report in which he had drawn attention to the following issues:

- As a result of the reduction in the number of flights at Stansted, from a peak of 193,700 five years ago to 134,000 now, and as a result of the ending of the noisy Air Asia flights, there was less noise disturbance and therefore fewer complaints.

But planes were inherently noisy, and if the airport started to expand again the nuisance would increase.

- Noise issues would form part of the two consultation papers which the DfT would issue later this month.
- There would be a separate consultation in 2013 on night flying.
- The proposed airspace changes put forward by NATS in 2008 had been widely opposed and had been shelved. A wider study would be published in due course.

Thirdly, the Court of Appeal would be hearing BAA's appeal about the ownership of the airport on 23 July. Whether or not there would be a change of ownership would have important repercussions for the campaign.

Over the past year we had cut back on our activities. Carol Barbone had taken a more strategic role this year, devolving many of her day to day responsibilities, and the office, staffed by Sarah Cousins, was open on average one day a week. The financial implications of this were spelt out in the Treasurer's Report which would be considered later in the meeting. We would again be selling our calendars and Christmas cards again this year, and we would continue with our quarterly meetings with the local Parish and Town Councils. Carol Barbone and Brian Ross had continued our political lobbying, and Ray Woodcock had continued his excellent work with the SSE trailer.

In the subsequent discussion it was noted that Sir Alan Haselhurst was still very committed to our cause; that we were against any new runways in the south-east, not just at Stansted; that Airport Watch were pursuing the aviation taxation issue; and that we were resisting the proposal in Uttlesford's draft Local Plan that land on the airport site should be thrown open for non-airport related development.

## **5. Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts to 30 September 2011**

Richard Cheetham presented the accounts on behalf of the Treasurer, Denise Williams, who was not able to attend the AGM. He believed it was important to view these accounts in the light of earlier years' experiences, especially as 2009 activity was at its height – thus the figures for the three years. In 2011 membership and donations had held up well but, reflecting lesser fund raising activity, other income sources were lower. The changes in the management organisation, referred to by the Chairman, have been reflected in the reduced expenditure in the most recent months since the year end. The net asset position by the end of March 2012 had improved by £20,000 back to nearly £100,000.

Richard commended the work done in the past 12 months of Peter Sanders and Brian Ross. He also congratulated Denise and Sarah on the accuracy of their work in coping with the large number of transactions. He thanked John Summers (Chartered Accountant) for his work in examining and reporting on the accounts. Richard recommended that the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2011 be approved. This was formally proposed by Peter Gowan and seconded by John Pryor. All were in favour.

## **6. Report on behalf of the Stop Stansted Expansion Committee**

See item 4 above.

## **7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee**

Peter Gowan was standing down from the committee and Peter Sanders thanked him for the many invaluable contributions he had made to both NWEHPA and SSE over many years.

Peter Sanders was proposed for Chairman by Jangu Banatvala and seconded by Barry Stephens and all were in favour.

Irene Jones was proposed for Deputy Chairman and seconded by Richard Cheetham and all were in favour.

Denise Williams was proposed for Treasurer by Sarah Cousins and seconded by Richard Cheetham and all were in favour.

There were no proposals for the role of Secretary which will remain vacant for the time being.

Peter Gowan proposed and Mike Young seconded that the other committee members should be Jangu Banatvala, Sarah Cousins, Martin Peachey, John Pryor, Peter Riding, Brian Ross and Ray Woodcock and all were in favour.

#### **8. Any other business**

There was no other business.

#### **9. Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm