

## **NORTH WEST ESSEX AND EAST HERTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (NWEHPA)**

### **Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> NWEHPA AGM held 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Priors Green Community Hall.**

**Present:** Peter Sanders (Chairman), Brian Ross, Irene Jones, Sarah Cousins, Richard Cheetham, Ray Woodcock, Janice and Ken McDonald, Tricia Barber, Michael Young, Jonathan Fox, Roger Clark and Katherine and David Aldridge.

#### **1. Apologies for absence.**

Denise Williams, Jangu Banatvala, Martin Peachey, Maddy Willis, John Hume, Yvonne Young and Sue and Robbie Barrett.

#### **2. Minutes of the last AGM.**

The minutes of the previous AGM of June 2015 were approved as an accurate record.

#### **3. Matters arising from the previous Minutes not on the Agenda.**

There were no matters arising

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

Peter Sanders presented his report as follows:

“Last year, which was our 50<sup>th</sup> AGM, I reported that the previous year had been one of watching and waiting. To a certain extent the past year had been much the same. Almost immediately after our AGM the Airports Commission published its Final Report in which it recommended that there should be an extra runway at Heathrow.

Of course it was a great relief to us that we were not in the immediate firing line. In the Government's 2003 White Paper the next runway was due to be at Stansted. We were at the front of the queue. Now the Airports Commission was placing us right at the back. But we knew we couldn't relax. The Commission has said that a second new runway might be needed in London and the South East by 2050, and that if this was so then an extra runway at Stansted might be one of the options to be considered. Andrew Harrison (who has recently been replaced by Andrew Cowen as Chief Executive at Stansted) spoke of a second runway at Stansted as being 'inevitable' in the long run. We disagree, of course, but the threat of a second runway is still hanging over us. And in spite of reassuring declarations at STACC, MAG still hasn't made any significant progress in selling off the houses which it owns.

In the meantime there has been only delay and indecision on the part of Government. It's said that it wants to do more work on assessing the environmental impacts of a third runway at Heathrow and comparing this with Gatwick, but it still hasn't made any formal response. One of the reasons for the delay was obviously the London mayoral election, since it would have been difficult for a Conservative Government to say that it wanted an extra runway at Heathrow if there was a Conservative Mayor who was arguing the opposite. Then there was the referendum. And now there's Brexit, Cameron's resignation and the battle for the leadership of the Tory party.

Everything is up in the air again.

We're deeply concerned about this. It would have been wrong of us to comment on the referendum generally. Many considerations beyond the scope of our concerns. But at one time – as late as this morning, in fact - it looked as if Brexit might lead to Boris Johnson as Tory leader, a man who had

indicated support for a four-runway airport at Stansted. Ideally, of course, he wanted Boris Island, but failing that he advocated Stansted. Now he has withdrawn from the leadership battle. But other candidates may not be any better from our point of view – Theresa May, who is now the favourite, as MP for Maidenhead is known to be against Heathrow expansion. Michael Gove for Surrey Heath. Not as gung-ho as Boris, but .... We just don't know.

There is also the question of making the best use of the existing capacity at Stansted. When it produced its interim report in December 2013 the Airports Commission estimated that Stansted would have reached full capacity, by which it meant 35mppa, by 2041. Since then there has been a marked increase in throughput at Stansted, and this date may well be brought forward. Already MAG are talking about raising the cap from 35mppa to 45mppa, and its application for this increase is likely to come sooner rather than later.

In the meantime we've been busy on other issues.

Martin Peachey has been working hard on the issues of noise and air traffic control. The most significant development was the shift of daytime flights in February from the south-east departure route (Detling) to the east departure route (Clacton). This change has had the effect of doubling the traffic on the Clacton route, and near the airport more people have suffered an increase in daytime overflights than the number of people where daytime overflights have been removed. This change was approved by the CAA even although in the consultation 82% of those who expressed a view objected to the changes. We opposed the change. Not surprisingly there has been an increase in complains about noise from residents living under the Clacton flight path.

The second development in which Martin has been heavily involved is the continuing trial for two departure routes using accurate satellite based navigation: the results show that 85% fewer people were overflowed than before. But only a small proportion of aircraft using these two routes took part in the trial and, while supporting the trials, we have been pressing for a review to check that the claimed benefits are in fact being delivered.

Also dealing with the day to day business of complaints about noise. Enormously conscientious, and Martin's work helps people to feel that in time of need they can turn to SSE and get really professional help and support.

Peter Riding has maintained our website. A magnificent resource. Enormously helpful for us to be able to say to those raising questions – look at our website.

Ray Woodcock and his helpers have rolled out our trailer at various fetes, festivals and markets, and Ray has tramped the streets, knocking on doors as well. He has become a well-known figure and fixture in the area. We sold all 2,000 of the calendars for 2016, and we are now in the process of preparing the calendar for 2017. Ray and I are meeting with Peter Riding tomorrow.

Denise Williams has continued to keep our books immaculately in far-off Northumberland for which we are indebted.

And Sarah has kept our office functioning at the highest peak of efficiency and carried out lots of other tasks. It's wonderful to know that we have someone who is so dependable and to whom we can turn with absolute confidence that the job will not only be well done, but will be done cheerfully and willingly. Her latest contribution – appearing on TV looking very hard working with her trowel in her back garden while the planes roared overhead.

Maggie has continued to provide hospitality for our committee meetings – always providing a wonderful array of cakes and biscuits.

And Brian of course, has continued to represent us on STACC and at party political conferences and in appearances on the media. Always in control of the argument and always with the right phrase to capture the audience's attention. Above all, in recent weeks, he has worked prodigiously hard to expose the scandal of the airport's delay, its reluctance, indeed in effect its refusal to pay compensation to those people whose quality of life has been diminished by the expansion of the airport. I'll not go into detail. You will have seen our recent statements on the issue, and it's far from over. Remember that in the first stage of the expansion, even though BAA was to a certain degree co-operative, it took 6 years before all the payments were made. But we've at last made great advances. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it's been a great triumph for us - and it's due very largely to Brian.

We owe them all a great debt of gratitude – and to you for your support.”

## **5. Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of Accounts.**

Sarah handed round the approved Accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 along with the Treasurer's Report prepared by Richard Cheetham and Denise Williams as follows:

### **“INCOME**

With each category showing a reduction, total income was down to £53,447 from £63,391 in the previous year.

Memberships continue to be reasonably buoyant but Parishes are feeling the pinch.

Fundraising continues to be focussed on the sale of the SSE Community Calendar, for which Ray Woodcock should be thanked for his tremendous efforts.

The figure for Interest is Gross (i.e. including tax, which is shown as a separate item under expenditure at a rate of 20%).

### **EXPENDITURE**

The first two items are fairly even with the previous year. However, Office and General Expenses increased substantially due to a £5,000 donation to AEF, who had a stand at the three party political conferences of 2015, and the cost of Brian Ross's attendance at all three as the SSE representative, talking to policy makers.

### **SUMMARY**

Income was down £9,944 and Expenditure up by £4,690, reducing the surplus for the year to £26,108 (from £40,742).

### **BALANCE SHEET**

The increase in Bank balances (£29,848 to £192,217) is reduced by campaign expenses owing of £14,882, to produce Net Assets of £177,335 (up from £151,227 the year before) which is represented by the accumulated surpluses over the year (NWEEHPA £10,213, SSE £167.122K). This all points to a very healthy financial position.”

Brian Ross referred to the AEF donation and the Party Conferences explaining that in this financial year we would not be donating £5,000 to AEF and that he would be attending only one of the political conferences.

Ken McDonald proposed that the Accounts be accepted and Mike Young seconded the motion and the Accounts were duly accepted.

A copy of the Accounts will shortly be available on the SSE website at:  
<http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/accounts.html>

## **6. Election of Officers and the Committee.**

Irene Jones confirmed that Peter Sanders would be willing to stand again as **Chairman**. This was proposed by Jonathan Fox and seconded by Janice McDonald and Peter was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Irene Jones would be willing to stand again as **vice-Chair**. This was proposed by Brian Ross and seconded by Tricia Barber and Irene was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Denise Williams would be willing to stand again as **Treasurer**. This was proposed by Sarah Cousins and seconded by Richard Cheetham and Denise was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Sarah Cousins would be willing to stand again as Secretary. This was proposed by David Aldridge and seconded by Mike Young and Sarah was duly elected.

Peter Sanders suggested that the other members be re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Mike Young and seconded by David Aldridge. **NWEEHPA Committee members** therefore are Jangu Banatvala, Martin Peachey, Maggie Sutton, Brian Ross and Ray Woodcock.

## **7. Any other business.**

There was nothing further to discuss.

## **8. Conclusion of the meeting.**

Peter Sanders closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending.