

Motueka Aerodrome Operations and Safety Committee

Tasman District Council

Date and Time: 1 June 2022 at 10am

Venue: Motueka Aero Club

Present: Nick Chin (Acting Chair)
Giles Whitney, Mark Stagg, Javan Rose, Rachel Mackie, Jackie Day, Bruce Broady

In attendance: Nick Chin (Property and Enterprise Manager), Christina Ewing (Enterprise Portfolio Officer), and Peter Collins (Director Tasman Bay Contracting)

Meeting opened at 10 am

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Moved: Mark Stagg **Seconded:** Jackie Day

That apologies be received from Stu Bean, James Meldrum, Brad Keay, John Richards, Mark Lasenby and Greg Wood.

Carried

3. Minutes of last meeting – 2 March 2022

Moved: Jackie Day **Seconded:** Mark Stagg

That the minutes from the 2 March 2022 meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.

Carried

4. Action items from the previous meeting

The action items were updated, and the following items discussed:

| Action | Status | Assigned to: |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| A large area of loose stones needs to be returfed by the fuel pump. (Northern side of the pump). | Ongoing | Christina Ewing |
| Diamond Grid Check | Ongoing | Stu Bean |
| Contact John Richards to ask about mowing frequency, spraying and maintenance specifications for the Aerodrome. Stu will pass on Nicks's cell phone to John. | Completed | Stu Bean |
| Contact Kono regarding using lasers as bird scarers. | Completed | Nick Chin |
| Council to write to the NDRA, asking if they could outline the future plans for the races after March 2022 (due to Covid) and inform the Aerodrome. | Completed | Nick Chin |

Laser Bird Scarer: - Jackie Day had an update on the bird lasers; she had spoken with Kono, who stated that the bird lasers were only utilised horizontally, so as not to interfere with airport operations. Users would continue to monitor this.

Dates for the NDRA: - The dates were presented and considered by the Committee; it was also mentioned that the NDRA required to apply for a new licence.

5. Letter of acknowledgement from the Police

Nick Chin read a letter from the Police Department thanking airport users for their assistance. (Letter is attached to the agenda.)

6. Introduction of Peter Collins – Nick Chin introduced Peter Collins from Tasman Bay Contracting to the members. Peter was the new mowing contractor for the Aerodrome.

7. Health and Safety Issues

Nick Chin commended Nelson Aviation College for developing a safety induction programme that Tasman Bay Constructing then were inducted in. It proven to be quite useful, and Council would want to further expand it and provide this type of training to all new contractors before they operate on the Aerodrome.

A user expressed concern about the mowing tractor not exiting the grass runway when attempting to land. He assumed the operator's radio was broken or that the operator was unable to hear the plane wanting to land. Some steps would be taken to avoid this in the future. It was discussed and decided that closing the Aerodrome for mowing was not practical; however, it was outlined that:

- The mowing operator would be given a headset to make communication clearer and mow around runways as early as possible in the morning.
- NOTAMS will clarify that pilots should make contact on the aerodrome frequency and communicate with the mowing operator directly making their intentions clear before landing.
- The mowing operator shall ensure that the tractor has visible lights and when notified a pilot would like to land, he will then move the tractor and any men 50m from the runway.

The bird scarer was also discussed, with one user believing it was in the path of planes taxing off and on the runway. Other people suggested that the bird-scarers be left in its current position, as it had been for some time. A kite, flag or light could be added to the bird scarer machine to make it more noticeable.

A question was raised by users if a permit could be obtained to cull birds, since there were too many on the airfield. The Police would be contacted to see if this were possible. Staff would let users know if an exemption was granted

8. General Business

- The Regional Competitions will be held on November 19, 2022, and the Aerodrome was expected to be busy with planes arriving as early as November 16, 2022.
- Remove the sign on the fuel pump stating that the landing fee was \$8, as it was now \$10.
- It was discussed that more noise complaints were coming in from residents, who were reporting to the CAA, but it was felt that the CAA has no jurisdiction over noise concerns and that Council only has ground running noise.
- Nick Chin stated that he was putting together a business case for introducing utilities such as power, sewerage, and water at the recreational hangars. This will take 3-6 months to complete.
- The group was advised of a new aviation college in New Zealand. The New Zealand Aviation Academy (NZAvAcc) was being established at Nelson Airport. Students were expected to arrive in the country shortly. There was concern that they might use Motueka Aerodrome as part of their training grounds, causing the Aerodrome to become extremely congested.

Meeting closed at 11.10 am

Next meeting: – 1 September 2022 at 10am

Action Log – 1 June 2022

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|--|---------|-----------------|
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Unconfirmed