

Notes of the Motueka Aerodrome Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Friday 14 February 2014 at 2.00 pm
Venue: Motueka Service Centre Boardroom, Motueka

Present: Cr Barry Dowler (TDC) Chair
Richard Horrell (Motueka Community Board)
John Richards (Recreational Users Representative)
Jeremy Anderson (Commercial Users representative)

In Attendance: Don Grant (Motueka Aero Club)
Jim Frater (Property Services Manager, TDC)
Rose Biss (Policy Planner, TDC)
Shailey McLean (Executive Assistant, TDC)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Gourdie, and from John Richards for lateness.

2. Presentation

Don Grant spoke on behalf of the Motueka Aerodrome Operations and Flight Safety Committee on the concept of a noise map for the Motueka Aerodrome. He gave a presentation and tabled a copy of this. Mr Grant's presentation outlined the purpose of the noise map, its benefits, the costs, and the implications if the data was obtained.

In response to a question, Rose Biss, Policy Planner, advised that she was not aware of any noise issues raised by Wakatu when applying for Motueka West development. She added that the proposed subdivision was within the existing urban boundary so was considered appropriate.

Ms Biss agreed with Mr Grant, in that good data was required before a noise map could be contemplated. She added that if a noise map was prepared, the next step of trying to implement controls in the district plan would be expensive and potentially controversial, and would need consultation in the Motueka community.

Mr Grant suggested that the noise map could be prepared internally so that the noise zones could be measured, and once it was done, the group could decide whether or not to progress to the district plan stage.

There was discussion on existing versus new houses near the Aerodrome, and the work that would need to be done to them if any fell within the 65 decibel zone.

In response to a question, Ms Biss confirmed that there was no way to add details about the proximity of the Aerodrome, and any related noise, to a Land Information Memorandum (LIM).

It was confirmed that Council would need to buy the equipment to carry out the noise map work, or would need to hire a contractor to do it.

Ms Biss advised that the average noise limit for the area was currently 55 decibels during the day and 40 decibels at night according to the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

A suggestion was made that a submission to the Annual Plan could be made for the noise map costs, or that it could be funded from the Aerodrome account. Jim Frater, Rose Biss and Barry Dowler agreed to discuss the matter further and report back to the next meeting.

Moved R Horrell /J Richards

That the Motueka Aerodrome Advisory Group request staff to investigate the effect of the Motueka Aerodrome on the Motueka community and report back.

CARRIED

3. Aero Club Hanger

Mr Frater provided an update on work at the Aero Club Hanger. He summarised the situation with the new wall being constructed and the need to move a nearby fence, resulting in two parties who were unhappy with the process. The group agreed that Mr Frater should advise the relevant parties that wall construction should take place only on the days when a plane was not arriving or leaving next door.

4. Minutes

Moved J Anderson /R Horrell

That the notes of the Motueka Aerodrome Advisory Group meeting held on 13 November be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Independent Member Appointment

Barry Dowler advised that he had tried to get in contact with Geoff Milne and would try again over the coming days. Mr Dowler added that Bill Coppins had confirmed he was interested.

b. Review of Permitted Users

It was confirmed that microlights were considered to be 'a permitted use' under the Motueka aerodrome management Plan.

c. Emergency vehicle access to runway

Mr Frater advised that the emergency vehicle access at the Northern end of was still to occur.

d. Membership of the Motueka Aerodrome Advisory Group

There was discussion on the membership of the Group and it was confirmed that appointments were made by the users of the Aerodrome, while Cr Dowler and Mr Horrell were appointed by Council. It was agreed that the membership of the group should be reviewed in conjunction with elections.

6. Development Proposals

Jim Frater advised that Ross Troughton was ready to proceed with his development. He said he was waiting on an updated plan of the area they intend to occupy, and once that was received he will organise a rental assessment.

Mr Frater said that he had been in contact with Andy Brown and had advised him that a new helicopter hanger would need to comply with the Development Plan.

Mr Frater added that Noel Boyd was looking to become an aerodrome operator.

7. Applications for discretionary uses

There were no new applications to consider

8. Review of permitted uses

There were no permitted uses to review

9. Review of maintenance contract

There was discussion on the number of flights at the Aerodrome and the state of the grounds.

It was agreed that if the hay contractor wanted to improve the grass so that it could provide two crops, he could have it for free for one year.

Mr Frater said that the group needed to review the conditions in the maintenance contract so that any negotiations could be made with the contractor if necessary.

Mr Frater added that if there were any complaints about the grounds maintenance, then the Committee should contact Council. He said that he supported a direct relationship between the Committee and the maintenance contractor for all other purposes.

Moved J Richards /S Bean

That no action is taken regarding the removal of the flax and hebe plants.

CARRIED

10. Managing growth

Mr Frater spoke about an Ombudsman meeting that was held recently involving Graham Caradus, Dennis Bush-King and himself. He said the topic had been the Upper Moutere area and the complaints of air traffic. Mr Frater advised that the Ombudsman had queried the development plan, asking how noise issues would be managed if aircraft movement is increased.

Mr Frater said that it had also become apparent that the Ombudsman considered Council's responsibility extended further than the land it owned, that there was some responsibility when aircraft were in the air as they were coming and going.

11. 2014/2015 proposed budget

Mr Frater tabled the Council's proposed Motueka Aerodrome budget for 2014/2015. He confirmed that figures with a minus (-) were income figures. Mr Frater gave the following updates

- Drag racing hire fees were down due to a washed out event not being charged for
- The fuel levy was overstated in the past so was lower in the 2014/2015 budget
- The current landing fees would be increasing
- Professional services were valuation services
- Overheads were currently being reviewed – they are a shared cost of running Council

Mr Frater said that the funding for the grass runway undulations would roll over to the next year if it wasn't done in 2014/15. There was discussion on filling in the runway with dirt twice a year. Richard Horrell agreed to discuss this with Concrete and Metals and CJ's and obtain quotes.

Mr Frater advised that the accounts were now closed, so any profits or losses would be carried forward to the next financial year.

12. Other business

There was discussion on landing fees and Mr Frater said a review of the fees would be on the work programme for the new Commercial Manager once they were employed.

There was discussion on the need for electricity and sewerage to be set up around the airport edge, and who would be in support of this. It was agreed that it would provide more options for the site, but at a cost which may not outweigh the benefits.

The meeting concluded at 3.25 pm