

Minutes

Motueka Aerodrome Advisory Group

Date: Wednesday 14 March 2018, 2.30 pm

Venue: Tasman District Council Service Centre, Hickmott Street, Motueka

Present: Cr. Peter Canton
Jeremy Anderson (Nelson Aviation College – commercial user rep)
Jim Maguire (recreational user representative)
Cr Paul Hawkes
Bill Coppins (independent member)

In attendance: Mark Johannsen (Property Services Manager – Tasman District Council)
Jim Frater (Project Manager, Property Services)
Terry-Louise Rosser (Executive Support Officer - Tasman District Council)
Andrew Ellis (Commercial Portfolio Manager – Tasman District Council)
Carlton Campbell - CAA
Elizabeth (Beth) Bryant – Friends of Motueka Estuary

1. **Welcome**

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

Stuart Bean

Barry Dowler

Moved: Jeremy/Paul

That apologies be received from Stuart Bean and Barry Dowler - **carried**

3. **Management Plan submission – Friends of Motueka Estuary**

Cr Canton tabled the submission from Friends of Motueka Estuary (FoME). Beth read through the FoME submission. Ideally they would like the Estuary classified as a no fly zone similar to Farewell Spit but do not think this can be achieved. As an alternative, FoME would like the height restriction for aircraft raised to 1000ft to reduce the disturbance to birds. They are also concerned about the problems being caused by drones.

FoME appreciates that the aerodrome is important to the community but would also like Council to recognise it is important to look after the environment.

Jeremy explained that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for users of the aerodrome had just been discussed at the Operations and Safety Committee meeting and that the group had been asked to adopt a voluntary height restriction of 1000ft. Visitors to the aerodrome would also be asked to adopt the restriction but it would be harder to enforce. Jeremy commented that the Aviation College already had a 1000ft height restriction over the sand spit and he felt there should be more improvements as a result of changes to the MoU.

Jim Maguire stated he would be happy to put something in the newsletter about voluntary heights.

Jim Frater suggested sending a copy of the MoU to emergency services to make them aware of the voluntary restrictions.

Cr Canton explained that Council was very aware of issues around the sand spit and was supportive of measures to minimise disturbance to the birds.

Carlton suggested having posters and leaflets available in local information centres and at the aerodrome.

Beth left at 3.04pm.

Jeremy asked about the amphibious plane that uses the estuary. Carlton commented that as he is not a commercial operator there is not much they can do. He commented that the CAA put a lot of credibility in user groups, so if a user is not complying with a MoU it is looked upon unfavourably.

Cr Ogilvie joined the meeting at 3.09pm.

4. Management Plan written submissions

Jim Frater explained to the Advisory Group that 11 submissions had been received regarding the Management Plan. Each submission was considered as follows:

Submission No.	Submission (in brief)	Response
16867	Helicopter departure and take off area too close to Marchwood Park. Lots of equestrian activities close to that area. Requesting further communication with A&P Assn, and the two Pony Clubs using the area and limit landings on days of events. Or move hover pad to different location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF would look at adding something to the MoU about avoiding the area during equestrian events and talking to the helicopter companies. • To ask the equestrian centre to let Council know when an event is happening so a NOTAM can be put out. • To update the map to reflect the actual size of the landing pad.

16783	Interested to find out what restrictions are currently in place regarding noise abatement. Proximity to take off and landing means we are exposed to high level noise during hours of operation, some engine noise beyond what is acceptable in a residential area, especially during take off, my understanding is that currently there is no noise monitoring in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A noise management programme is allowed for under the Management plan. Note than any funding for the programme would have to be approved by Council. • Jim Frater would look into the cost of running a noise management programme.
17207	Noise control, limit to hours of operation. That organisations have a noise limit on the use of music or loud speakers at events. Retaining of the community recreation area on the South east corner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To acknowledge submission and provide information to the submitter regarding the Council's current policy on noise control. • Explain that restricting hours between daylight and dusk unenforceable.
17275	Request Motueka and Moutere estuaries and sand spit are classified as "no flying zones" for protection of bird habitats which are classified as nationally important. If unable to have a no fly one - should raise flying heights in this area (NAC already voluntarily fly at 1000ft rather than the minimum 500ft). Drones to be banned from these areas. TDC to provide education to the public of the importance of these areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerodrome MoU to add voluntary height restrictions for area. Jim Frater will also rewrite the complaints section.
17285	Close aerodrome otherwise restrict hours, users to abide by the MoU. Regulate flight paths, reduce noise. Become CAA certified, more public representation on MAAG rather than just operators. Become entirely self-funding. No further development, no accommodation.	<p>All points raised should be addressed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw submitter's attention to the value of the aerodrome as an asset especially during an emergency (such as an earthquake or during major road closures e.g. Takaka Hill). • Flight paths are regulated. • All commercial users are CAA certified. • Need to find balance between becoming self-funding and further development. JF will look at wording in plan and add something

		<p>regarding achieving financial sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into adding an additional independent user to the group. Could be appointed through Community Board. Commercial Committee would need to approve a change to the terms of reference. • Commercial activities attracts people to the area which is good for the community as a whole. • Restricting hours between daylight and dusk unenforceable. • Any accommodation would be subject to the normal Council processes. <p>Carlton – part CAA rule157 may need to be considered as well.</p>
17300	Noise levels and operation hours and unsafe practices above residential housing in Ruby Bay. Would like noise to be monitored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Johannsen to go back to submitter and ask him to keep a log of activities including times and dates to help us identify aircraft.
17303	Maximise revenue gained by the commercial operators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees and charges are currently being reviewed and the resulting business plan will be open to public consultation. • Fees and charges will be included as an item for the next Advisory Group meeting.
17606	Constant noise levels a health risk to residents. Revisit report done 26 years ago which recommended no further development and no helicopter training. Onsite monitoring to ensure operators are abiding by MoU. More public input to MAAG. Airport Manager to check any new aircraft to be kept at aerodrome for noise levels (both private & commercial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF to include Aerodrome Operator approval for all aircraft based at the aerodrome. • Will consider an additional independent representative on MAAG. • Provide information on Council's current policy on noise control.
17607	Recommends independent community representation. Having record of all aircraft movements. TDC should not be promoting growth in this activity. Suggests rewording/clarification of some statements and mandatory third party insurance for all users Commercial and Private.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF will look into the practicality of conducting an aircraft count. • Change wording to 'open for general use without permission'. • Encourage all users to have 3rd party insurance. Commercial users will have public liability insurance.

17608	Increased activity of training aircraft. Noise levels in Motueka and surrounding areas (Moutere). Prefer closing the Aerodrome and using land for bypass. Previous letter to Mayor suggests a study of the impact of the noise on the local population and possibility of moving the Aviation College to a less populated area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council does not control flight paths and Motueka Aerodrome is only one of several airstrips or aerodromes that are used by aircraft. • Explain commercial value of aerodrome to Motueka. • Provide details of Council's current policy on noise control.
17609	Consult residents along College Street when new development or buildings are done. In particular positioning and colour of buildings, car parking and road side fencing. Prefers low barriers such as Tasman Sky Dive have. Concerned about loss of value to properties if poor planning is allowed in future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College St closed zone so shouldn't be a problem. Fencing has to provide security and safety and is subject to Aerodrome Operator's approval.

The Group agreed that all regular users of Motueka Aerodrome should be signatories to the MoU and would work with the aero club to educate users.

Moved: Jeremy/Jim Maguire

That the Management Plan submission summary report be received and that changes agreed to at the meeting will be incorporated into the Management Plan, along with the changes to the complaints process. The updated Management Plan will be circulated amongst membership for approval and will then be recommended to the Commercial Committee - **carried**

Minutes of previous meeting – 22 November 2017

Moved: Jeremy/Peter

That the minutes of the meeting of the Motueka Aerodrome Advisory Group held on 22 November 2017 be confirmed. – **carried**.

5. Action items from minutes 22 November 2017

- Jim Frater has created a draft document for hangar applications.
- Revised fees have not been sent to Advisory Group.
- Jim Frater still needs to write to Wakatu Incorporation regarding threshold obstacles.
- Mowing specification still needs to be changed.

Moved:

That the update on the action items be accepted – **carried**.

6. Update on aerodrome development

- Mark Stagg has received approval to extend his hangar. Concerned about costs.
- Coast to Coast have received approval to build a hangar but the costs are prohibitive. They are looking at buying an existing hangar.
- Enquiry regarding building a block of hangars is on hold.

NelsonTasman Air – there is an issue with the sump drain. They have not received sign off on the car park as it needs more work.

Andrew Ellis talked about the dump site due to be built and the opportunity it presented to plan for services to assist future growth. The Group was supportive of the idea. Andrew had been invited to a meeting regarding the work scheduled and would report back following this.

Moved: Jim/Peter

That the Group authorise Andrew Ellis and the Chairman to negotiate the location of the dump station on Marchwood Park Rd/aerodrome land – **Carried.**

7. Financial Report

Andrew Ellis spoke to the financial report. The general intention is to make the aerodrome financially sustainable but this is not being achieved at present.

Moved: Paul/ Jeremy

That the financial report be accepted – **carried.**

8. Other business

- Barry Dowler is concerned that the fixed wing aircraft are in the wrong place as the plan states the area is for helicopters. Jim Frater will talk to Mark about tidying up his operation.
- Bill Coppins confirmed he is happy to stay on as the independent member.

Cr Canton noted that the meeting would be the last for Jeremy Anderson who is moving away. He thanked Jeremy for his contribution.

Meeting closed: 5.00pm

9. Next meeting – 20 June 2018

Action log:

Send revised fees to Advisory Group	MJ
Write to Wakatu Incorporation regarding threshold obstacles	JF
Mowing specification still needs to be changed	JF
Sending a copy of the MOU (once finalised) to emergency services to make them aware of the voluntary restrictions over Motueka Estuary	JF
Information about voluntary heights to go into Aero Club newsletter	JM
Respond to submitters regarding agreed actions	JF/MJ
Implement agreed actions	JF/MJ
Work with the aero club to educate users regarding MoU and ensure regular users are signatories.	JF/MJ
Andrew Ellis and the Chairman to negotiate the location of the dump station on Marchwood Park Rd/aerodrome land	AE/PC