

**FURNEAUX GROUP AVIATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE
Minutes**

DATE: Tuesday 8th October 2013
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 11am

PRESENT:

Mayor Carol Cox	(Chair)
Cr P Rhodes	(Council)
Cr R Wise	(Council)
Raoul Harper	(Council)
Noel Bowland	(RPT Operator)
Greg Dempster	(Flinders Island Tourism Assoc.)
Jeff Grace	(Airport Manager)
Gordon Rorison	(Charter Aircraft)
Sue Ryden	(Multi-Purpose Centre) (arrived at 11.15am)

APOLOGIES:

Denise Gardner	(Cape Barren Island)
Travis Prins	(D.I.E.R.)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Vicki Warden	(Executive Assistant) (minute taker)
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CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: J Grace Seconded: N Bowland

That the minutes from the meeting held on the 5th February 2009 are a true record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE IN

- FITA attendee to July 2012 meeting
- FITA 20.07.2012 – Greg Dempster elected as FITA Representative on committee
- Letter from Gordon Rorison
- Submission – G Dempster
- Submission – J Bushby
- Email naming Denise Gardner as CBIAA Representative

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

- Agenda for 3rd August 2013 meeting (cancelled due to lack of quorum)
- Committee Members – review of membership 17.05.2013
- Committee Members – Special Committees of Council Policy & Meeting Procedures

Moved: Cr P Rhodes Seconded: G Dempster
That the correspondence in and out is noted.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

Item 1: Draft Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference were discussed and it was proposed that the timeframe for the review of the Terms of Reference be brought in line with Council's 4 year election terms. It was also noted that a Quorum of 6 needs to include representatives other than from Council.

Moved: Cr R Wise Seconded: Cr P Rhodes
That the Draft Terms of Reference, with the timeframe for review changed to 4 years, be put forward to Council for endorsement.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 2: Committee Representatives – Community Rep needed

The Community Representative position on the Committee is currently vacant. According to Council policy, nominations for the vacant Community Representative position are to be advertised in the Island News.

Moved: G Dempster Seconded: N Bowland
That a recommendation be presented to Council to commence the process of filling the Community Representative vacancy.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 3: Submission from Greg Dempster – Hire car parking at airport

A discussion ensued on the issues surrounding charging for hire car parks, public use of parks allocated for hire cars, and charging the public for long term car parking. A Business Case for the Airport is currently underway and when that has been completed it will be presented to the Aviation Committee for consideration. These issues will be discussed further at this time.

Item 4: Submission from Jane Bushby – Passenger lifter

Information from the Health Special Committee is that a passenger lifter now costs in the vicinity of \$20,000. The Chair advised the Committee that the Flinders Lions has allocated \$5,000 towards the purchase of a lifter for loading passengers with mobility concerns onto aircraft operated by Sharp Airlines at Essendon Airport. The Hospital Auxiliary has also allocated \$5,000 towards the purchase and there is community talk that more funds will be forthcoming from community efforts. The General Manager indicated that Council would be supportive of providing the remaining funds needed but that this decision would have to go to a Council

Meeting. Noel Bowland advised that it is likely that Sharp Airlines would manage the lifter at Essendon as they do the one on Flinders.

Moved: G Rorison Seconded: Sue Ryden

That a recommendation be put forward to Council that Council facilitate the purchase of the passenger lift on the Community's behalf.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 5: Aviation Policy

As per Council's Policy Manual, this Policy is due for review. Councillors had the opportunity to review the Policy at a Councillor Workshop on 3rd October 2013 and a second amended version was developed. This version was presented to the Committee for consideration. The Committee acknowledged that the amended Policy did not recognise the important role locally owned charter operators play on behalf of the community e.g. mail and newspaper delivery. Discussion also ensued around the importance of supporting the Air Ambulance and medical retrievals.

The following additions to the Policy were recommended:

“Council policy for air services to the Furneaux group is:

1. That Flinders Island Airport maintains its CASA certification.
2. That Council supports Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) operations and locally based charter operators which provide a consistent and reliable service.
3. That Council continues to provide staff assistance for medical retrieval on an ongoing basis.
4. That Council continues to seek financial assistance from the State and Federal Governments to support the maintenance and upgrade of the islands' Airport facilities.
5. That Council liaises with the management of Launceston and Essendon Airports to ensure that these organisations continue to be aware of the importance of their facilities to the residents of the Furneaux Islands.”

Moved: Cr R Wise Seconded: G Dempster

That the amended Aviation Policy be put forward to Council for endorsement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 6: Airport Master Plan

The Airport Master Plan was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting 17th May 2013. Copies of the Plan were provided to Committee Members for referral.

Item 7: Airport Business Plan

The General Manager provided an update on progress on the Airport Business Plan. The Business Plan has been workshopped with Councillors and the three top

priorities identified were fuel, secure storage and car parking. Council has been lobbying hard to get the runway upgrade on the State and Federal Governments lists for funding. If the runway is not upgraded within the next 3-4 years the Airport will not be able to function.

Q. How are the Solar Arrays going as they appear to be on an unusual angle?

A. holding bolts have sheared in the excessive winds. They are still under warranty and Airport staff are working with the manufacturers to find a solution to the problem.

Item 8: Other Business

Erection of the RFDS passenger transfer station has been held up until the apron can be completed. Waiting on quarry materials to undertake this work.

Sue Ryden mentioned that as part of the MPC's association with the Department of Health & Ageing, they are required to produce an Emergency Management Plan and the Airport Master Plan is included in this Plan.

The next meeting will be in about 3 months time once the Business Case is complete. An ad calling for submissions to the Aviation Committee will be placed in Island News at the end of October.

Meeting Closed 12.05pm