

**FURNEAUX GROUP AVIATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday 29 January 2019  
**VENUE:** Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 1.00pm

**IN ATTENDANCE - MEMBERS:**

Mayor Annie Revie	Chair
Cr S Blyth	Council
Cr P Rhodes	Council
Brian Barnewall	Works and Airport Manager
Bill Boehm	General Manager
Michael Buck	Flinders Island Tourism & Business Assoc.
Arun Kendall	Department of State Growth
John Loudon	Multi-Purpose Centre
Linda Nicol	Community Representative

**APOLOGIES:**

Nil

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Peter Barron	Charter Aircraft
Noel Bowland	(Sharp Airlines) RPT Operator
Denise Gardner	Cape Barren Island

**IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF:**

Cody Swan	Airport Operations
Jacci Viney	Assets, Projects and Environmental Health Officer
Vicki Warden	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)

**CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Moved: B Barnewall    Seconded: L Nicol  
 That the minutes from the meeting held on 12 June 2018 are a true record.

CARRIED

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

In accordance with Section 52(3) of Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993* which enables a council to exempt community members who are Special Committee members from pecuniary interest for a period of 12 months, the following motion no. 344.12.2018 was passed at the 18 December 2018 Council Meeting:

1. *That Council agrees to grant exemption from pecuniary interest to the community members appointed to all of its Special Committees for a period of 12 months, from December 2018 to December 2019.*
2. *That Council again considers the pecuniary interest of community members on its Special Committees at the December 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council.*

Councillor members must declare at each meeting if they have a Pecuniary Interest in any of the agenda items. No interest was declared.

**CORRESPONDENCE IN**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT**

29.11.2018 Committee Members – New Committee Chair and council representatives

**AGENDA****Item 1 Public Submissions**

Public submissions were called for via Island News and none were received.

**Item 2 Airport Update**

Brian Barnewall provided an update on activity at the airport since June 2018:

- Council has taken on the aviation fuel facility and to date has sold 12,000 litres of aviation fuel. The call-out fee for staff to provide fuel during normal working hours has been removed, however the fee remains for attendance outside normal hours. This has been appreciated by pilots.
- One private hangar lease has been finalised with construction commencing soon.
- Staff have reapplied to the federal government's Regional Airstrip Upgrade Program for funding to stabilise the runway. Grants should be announced in April. If unsuccessful, will reapply for the final round the following year.
- Also applied to the State Government for a grant for additional funding for runway to assist with operational costs.
- Wildlife perimeter fence is finished with no wallabies airside except for when the fence wire came away from a culvert.
- Long runway is holding well with occasional degradation being dealt with immediately. The planned runway upgrade is expected to last 25 – 30 years.

Linda Nicol asked if there was any thought of putting in navigational aids to the airport. The answer was no.

Michael Buck questioned the validity of Council continuing to own the airport, given the continuing costs to Council going forward, and asked for a report on the pros and cons of owning the airport. Discussion ensued. The State Government is conscious of asset management issues and impact on council funding and is waiting for the results of the Senate inquiry into regional airports, due June or July. At that time the government expects to investigate a long-term funding model for regional airports.

Council has applied to the State Government for a grant to support airport operational costs. Arun Kendall confirmed that the State Government is aware of the challenges Council faces and that the submission is being considered now. If successful, Council will receive an initial \$200,000 with a maximum per annum commitment reducing over time until the gap between operational expenditure and income is closed.

Bill Boehm remarked that if the capital projects at the airport were fully funded then Council could make a case for the airport to be self-sufficient. An alternate owner would require a government subsidy to run the airport, so it makes sense to give that subsidy to Council to run it.

Council was originally looking at a \$21 million option to upgrade the runway. An alternative stabilization solution with a life of 25 years has been found, at a cost of \$3.6 million. The runway would then be able to take planes with up to 80 seats.

Moved: M Buck      Seconded: P Rhodes

That the Committee recommend to Council that a discussion paper be prepared on the future of the Flinders Island Airport, particularly relating to funding.

CARRIED

**Item 3 Airport Financials**

An extract of the airport budget showing a long-term annual deficit of \$250,000 was provided for information.

**Item 4 National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF) – Managing Risk in Public Safety Zones at the Ends of Runways**

Previously, Council had asked staff to ensure this matter was considered and applied in the future planning scheme. Brain Barnewall reported that safety zones at the end of runways are provided for by the obstacle limitation surface. In the new local provisions schedule, there will be a height restriction and noise restrictions on buildings built within the existing noise attenuation zone around the airport.

**Item 5 Aviation Issues**

The Committee discussed a request from Dennis Cooper that Council ask Sharp Airlines to consider ways of keeping a seat available at all times for use by Islanders returning from a spell in hospital or medical visit. The request was made to the Mayor via a letter and asked in public question time at the January Ordinary Council Meeting. It was acknowledged that as Sharp Airlines is a business, it is not an issue for Council. The issue should be addressed to Sharp Airlines directly.

John Loudon reported that in recent peak periods, quite a few patients have been unable to travel at the time required. If the matter is urgent, the MPC will hire a charter flight. Linda Nicol commented that during the busy season, flights are booked out and as the Metro planes are old and out of date, they are having mechanical issues.

Moved: L Nicol      Seconded: M Buck

Recommend to Council that Malcolm Sharp be invited to meet with Council to discuss future operational services to the airport, as well as size and type of aircraft, and that representatives of the Furneaux Group Aviation Special Committee be invited to attend the meeting.

CARRIED

**Item 6 Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference for the Furneaux Group Aviation Special Committee were discussed by the Committee in preparation for Council's review of same.

**Item 7 Ideas for Future Meetings**

This item was not discussed.

**Other Business**

Michael Buck reported that the new signage at the airport will be completed end of February.

Peter Rhodes commented that when heading south on Palana Rd, the beware aircraft landing sign was located in front of trees that blocked the view of the airstrip. Brian Barnewall assured the Committee that it was not an issue as the airstrip was in full view a few metres past the sign.

**Next Meeting: To be called by Mayor**

**Meeting Closed: 2.44pm**