

FURNEAUX GROUP AVIATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday 2nd December 2015
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 10am

PRESENT:

Mayor Carol Cox	Chair
Peter Barron	Charter Aircraft
Cr K Stockton	Council
Cr P Rhodes	Council
Michael Buck	Flinders Island Tourism & Business Inc.
Luke Gregory	Dept. State Growth (DoSG) (via phone)
John Loudon	Multi-Purpose Centre
Linda Nicol	Community Representative

APOLOGIES:

Noel Bowland	(Sharp Airlines) RPT Operator
Denise Gardner	Cape Barren Island
Ben Foot	Airport Manager (On paternity leave)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Sophie Pitchford	Corporate Services Manager
Vicki Warden	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Cr P Rhodes Seconded: M Buck

That the minutes from the meeting held on the 29th September 2015 are a true record.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE IN

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

2015.10.29 Peter Barron - Ratification as committee representative

The correspondence as listed was noted.

AGENDA

Item 1: Welcome to New Committee Member

New Charter Aircraft Representative Peter Barron was welcomed to the committee.

Item 2: Terms of Reference

The members reviewing the Terms of Reference have only recently started this process and will meet after this committee meeting to further discuss draft changes. The reviewed Terms of Reference will be brought to the next committee meeting for consideration.

Item 3: Airport Business Plan (Non Airside) – April 2015 Council Meeting Motion

All work in this area has been put on hold until the airside prioritised work has been completed.

Item 4: Council's Aviation Policy

The Flinders Council Aviation Policy is due for review and is on the agenda of the 3rd December Councillor Workshop. As soon as it has been reviewed, it will be emailed to committee members for discussion at the next committee meeting early in the year. The policy will then go through the usual Council process for adoption.

Item 4: Runway 14/32 Priority Pavement Repair Program

Sophie Pitchford provided an update.

Works and Services staff have been concentrating on priority repairs. Patching has been done according to engineers' specifications. The bitumen truck is here and the bitumen storage tank is coming on the boat next week. The patched areas were primed yesterday and sealing will be complete by the 14th of December. Once the sealing works are completed the Engineer will inspect the works and provide a recommendation to Council, Sharp Airlines and CASA as to the serviceability of the runway in all weather conditions. Subject to the works meeting the requirements of the Engineer, Sharp Airlines and subsequently CASA, the current NOTAM restricting use of the runway in wet conditions (5mm of rain in a 24 hour period) should be removed before Christmas.

The end of the runway can't be redone until Council gets a specific roller to compact the sub-base. Council is currently sourcing a second-hand roller and the cost is likely to be between \$40,000 and \$60,000. Unfortunately it is not possible to use a roller suitable for the runway on roads as well as it will be too heavy.

Q: Have we heard about the RAMP application?

A: There has been no news yet but hoping to hear by the end of this week.

Item 5: Runway Business Case

Sophie Pitchford provided an update on this project on behalf of Raoul Harper.

Work has commenced on the development of a business case for a new runway at the airport. When the decision to develop the business case was made the initial intention was to complete the business case over 6-8 months and the overall runway upgrade project in around 5 years. However, following the recent issues with CASA and the potential regulatory and operational risks associated with the existing runway, the decision was made to accelerate development of the business case with a view to completing the first stage of the business case by late December/early January 2015 with the remainder of the business case completed before the end of the financial year.

An investment logic and project scoping workshop was conducted in Melbourne in late October 2015. The workshop was facilitated by Business Case Solutions (Karen O'Shanessy) and attended by the core technical consultants who will be assisting with development of the business case. Outputs of the workshop will enable Council to finalise the first stage of the preliminary business case, which is currently being prepared and will be completed by the end of this month.

Q: Can the committee be given the opportunity to comment on the initial draft of the business case?

A: Will discuss with Raoul.

ACTION: SP to ask Raoul to circulate initial draft of the business case to committee members for comment.

Note: Raoul has confirmed that the first stage of the preliminary business case will be finalised by the 18th of December and will be circulated to members for feedback once finalised. The Committee will be afforded the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on each stage of the business case as it's developed.

Item 5: Other Business

Q: The word around the Community is that all medical evacuations can use the strip no matter what the condition. Would the RFDS be prevented from landing?

A: There are no concessions on the NOTAM for RFDS however they have a plane that can land on the shorter strip. They will only be prevented from using the long runway if there is more than 5mm of rain within a 24hr period.

ACTION: SP to follow up to confirm access for emergency flights.

Discussion:

Council met with TasFire today regarding emergency response for the Island if it is required. Preplanning is underway for use of fire tractors at the airport for water bombing. TasFire has asked for an MOU to enable them to set up water tanks on the short side of the runway.

Part of Council's risk management plan for the runway is to reduce the time between pavement inspections in the future. Pavement inspections will now be undertaken by an Engineer every quarter and reporting officers will assess the runway pavements daily and provide a report to operators and the General Manager.

Reportedly Sharp Airlines has limited flights available from Melbourne before and after Christmas. Intended visitors are not able to travel to the Island and are going to an alternate destination which is not doing our reputation any good. We can call Sharp Airlines and ask to be wait-listed and they might put on another plane. Charter flights out of Melbourne are another option.

The mail service over Christmas will be as usual.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting date for this Committee is set for 20th January at 1pm.

Meeting Closed 10.31pm