

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL**FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 20 April 2011 at Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr G Sell (Chairman), Cllrs C Dean, B Gott, J Hudson, P L Jones, J Loughlin, T Owen, R Rawlinson, J Rich, J Salmon, W Stiles and V Trundle

ATTENDING: N Barton Esq – Managing Director, Stansted Airport Ltd
Mrs R Clifford – Clerk
Cty Cllr Ray Gooding
4 members of the public

409 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs I Evans and J Freeman.

410 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Dean as a member of Stop Stansted Expansion.

411 MINUTES

There being no amendments, the minutes of the meetings held on 16 March and 6 April 2011 were signed as a true record.

Mr Woodcock referred to questions he had raised at the STACC meeting relating to aircraft noise.

412 TO WELCOME MR NICK BARTON, MD OF STANSTED AIRPORT LTD

The Chairman welcomed Mr Barton and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Barton stated that he had been Managing Director of the airport for six months but had been a Director for six years. Stansted Airport had been designed, technically speaking, as “the best airport in the world” and since 1995 has been the main centre for low-cost airlines – 98% of its business. It is efficient because of design decisions taken when it was expanded and has recently received an award for “World’s Best Low-Cost Airport”.

There has been a significant decline in air traffic over a 41 month period – closely related to the economy – however, most staff have been retained, no redundancies have taken place and they are now advertising 108 seasonal positions with over 20 applications being received for each position. The Competition Commission has now decided that BAA must sell Stansted Airport and this is highly likely to happen. The airport must continue to do a good job for its passengers and not worry about a change in ownership. Government policy stated that no second runway is envisaged here for decades. There is capacity to grow from the current 18m passengers per annum (mppa) to 35mppa on the single runway and BAA is doing nothing to promote a second runway. The decision not to proceed with a second runway has left a £100m write-off and just short of 300

properties in the locality. These will be sold back into the housing market discreetly over a period of time.

The airport is showing weak signs of recovery. With regard to noise, they are promoting use of Code F aircraft (a 757 is Code D and a jumbo jet is Code E). The code is largely determined by the size of the aircraft and Stansted can cope with Code F planes on ten stands (Airbus A380, Boeing 747-800 series). Long-haul carriers will use these planes in the future and whilst they are noisier than some planes (737-800 and Airbus A320) they are much quieter than the existing 747's which they replace. Three such planes are coming to Stansted in September 2011.

Events on the horizon are a major risk for the airport but also a massive opportunity – a State visit by the American President in May and the Olympics in 2012. The lion's share of spectators will arrive at Stansted, whilst competitors and their luggage are scheduled to use Heathrow.

Cllr Sell thanked Mr Barton and took the opportunity to place on record the position of the Parish Council relating to the airport – the Council has never been anti-Stansted Airport, but was opposed unanimously to a second runway. He hoped that the Council's relationship with BAA would continue to improve and that the old practice of meeting twice per annum could be resumed. Mr Barton welcomed this and asked that the Clerk liaise with his secretary to set a date for the next meeting which would take place at the airport. Questions from members were invited.

Cllr Sell asked how the train service to Liverpool Street/Stratford would cope with the increase in passengers arriving for the Olympics? NB explained that there are three firms authorised to sell complete packages, ie travel, accommodation etc and the airport is working closely with them. The new trains will all be 12 car stock and will run with excess capacity. It is expected that a lot of "ordinary" traffic will drop off during the period of the Games. Many passengers will also travel by coach as part of their package.

Cllr Loughlin asked if Ferrovial were unhappy about the decision not to proceed with the second runway? NB stated that they had paid a massive cash premium and within weeks lots of things started to go wrong – however, despite them getting no return out of Stansted Airport, they continue to be very supportive of the airport and are investing capital – they are not promoting a second runway.

Cllr Rich asked about the airport's attitude to local transport – ie when there are problems on the railway line, it appears to be the commuter who suffers while the airport trains take priority and are not stopped to collect local passengers. The service for local people who work at the airport is poor. NB apologised if there was a feeling along these lines, but stressed that the airport has no involvement in the timetabling of the trains and derives no income from them. They are invited to make representations but are blamed for some of the decisions. NB had authorised spending £2 million to ensure that the 12-car trains could be brought in on the line otherwise the airport would have lost services to Stratford – BAA has paid for platform lengthening.

Cllr Dean welcomed the Chairman's comment on the relationship with the airport – she hoped that the reconciliation would continue and pointed out that it was thanks to BAA that the local bus service has improved.

Cllr Sell referred to the numbers employed at the airport. NB stated that 11,300 people roughly are employed within the airport boundary, with 1300 of those working for BAA. 1 in 10 of the employees is from Uttlesford, but a good number also come from Harlow. Cllr Sell referred to the closure of several businesses at the airport, but employee numbers quoted appear to be the same – how is this explained? The total number of employees had peaked at 13,000, the head count has gone up slightly and also 400 more security staff have been employed. With regard to employees getting to work, the airport offers a car-share scheme, a train ticket incentive scheme and grants for bicycles.

Cllr Jones referred to airport parking in the village which is getting worse particularly around Foresthall Park – unsurprising given the 510 bus route. Why are communities asked to report this to BAA if there is nothing that they can do to prevent it? NB explained that the airport has a good working relationship with UDC and Highways who can take action and it is keen to work with authorities in order to remain a good neighbour.

Cllr Jones then referred to flight-paths – some have recently been reviewed and it seems that this area may suffer more noise from Luton and City airports. NB confirmed that there is nothing currently going on with airspace planning. There was pressure some years ago which resulted in the NATS consultation, but they were swamped with representations on this and the scheme was kicked into touch – not least because demand has fallen. With regard to helicopters, these are not sound suppressed and there are no designated routes. However, if the airport is aware of consistent problems it can take up the issue with the owners.

With regard to compensation payments (Part 1 claims) – these go with the land and will be unaffected by the change in ownership of the airport.

In response to Cllr Stiles, NB stated that BAA does not own any land within Stansted parish. Details of the re-sale of the properties back into the housing market will be kept confidential so as not to distort the local market. Cllr Loughlin made the point that some people moved out of communities when their homes were compulsorily purchased – the properties may be sold back, but you cannot repair the community. NB stated that the figures showed that very few people actually moved away from the area as a result.

The Chairman thanked Mr Barton again for attending the meeting and the Clerk undertook to arrange another meeting with Denise Parker. Mr Barton left at 8.58pm.

413 MATTERS ARISING

387 – Lower Street/Grove Hill parking scheme – Chris Stoneham has now written to the objectors to this scheme and it is hoped that further progress can be made after the deadline of 6 May.

414 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a Monthly report from PCSO Stranger.
- b Letter from Mr Phillips of Coltsfield relating to further development in the village – copy to go to each member.

415 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN - None.

416a DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Sell reported that a consultation on how to spend the New Homes Bonus should take place in Autumn 2011.

416b COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cty Cllr Gooding stated that the plans for the new St Mary's primary school had been passed earlier in the day. Some concerns were raised with regard to picking up and dropping off pupils and Highways will be approaching UDC to see if any on-street parking can be incorporated into the square to be constructed close to the school. There was a general feeling that the plans, particularly with regard to vehicular movements, had not been well thought out. With regard to the risk of noise, sound surveys have been carried out and there is a condition requiring further surveys within two months of the opening of the school – inside and outside.

Various members expressed concern at the lack of opportunity, particularly by Uttlesford, to have input into this application prior to its determination. Cllr Jones believed that discussions should be held with UDC and ECC to ensure that this cannot happen again – in planning terms the whole of the Foresthall Park development has been a disaster. Pressure must now be kept on ECC to undertake the walking route improvements as the money is already in the bank.

417 FINANCE

- a The list of cheques for signature was approved.
- b The VAT return to 31 March was received.
- c The draft accounts to 31 March 2011 were received.

418 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR COMMENT

- a UTT/0593/11/FUL – 15 Rainsford Road
Erection of single storey rear and two storey side extension

No comment

- b UTT/2103/10/AV – Elsenham Golf and Leisure, Hall Road, Elsenham
Retrospective application for retention of directional sign

No comment

419 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

352 – Bentfield Pond looking good following the clearance work.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2011.

420 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

375 – Cllr Jones reported that he would be attending the JAG meeting on 21 April. 379 – Windmill – Cllr Dean asked if there was progress on the cap – the worm has shifted but this will be repaired by IJP when they are on site.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2011.

421 REQUEST FROM RESIDENTS OF MILL HILL

A letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Brown in Mill Hill asking if the Council would consider letting them take over a small section of the public open space to enable them to enlarge their garden and take over responsibility for the trees. They believe that the trees currently planted on that boundary of the open space are inappropriate, and a beech hedge, to match the remainder of the boundary, would be more suitable.

Having checked the legal documents, the Clerk had established that the Council had agreed to maintain the land as public open space "in perpetuity" and members agreed therefore that a land transfer could not take place. Cllr Dean believed that the trees were modest but perhaps the Clerk could have them inspected.

422 UDC PLANNING ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

Noted that Mr Perry heads up an Enforcement Team of five, but one member of staff may transfer to Harlow with the new Revenue and Benefits partnership. Due to the size of the team, enforcement is reactive rather than proactive and relies on members of the public, and parish and town councils, to report cases. The Development Control committee has had some concerns about enforcement and these have been picked up by Mr Taylor, the new Head of Planning.

423 BISHOP'S STORTFORD CIVIC FEDERATION – LDF CONSULTATION

Correspondence had previously been received from the Federation relating to the East Herts LDF consultation to which the Parish Council had formally responded. The Federation is seeking support from this Parish Council to reject any development on the land between the Tesco roundabout and the northern by-pass. Cllr Dean noted that this land had been earmarked in a previous Plan (2008) for development. Members had concerns that any development of this land could have a knock-on effect on the village, and asked that the Federation keep them informed should a planning application be submitted. Cty Cllr Gooding was concerned that this could lead to development into Uttlesford.

424 LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE - received.

425 PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED - received.

426 CLERK'S RECORD OF PLANS - available.

Meeting closed 9.47pm