

Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee

29 April 2023

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Minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on Monday 29 April 2024 in the Alpine Helicopters Board Room, Wānaka Airport, Wānaka beginning at 11.23am

Present

Mr Rob Phillips (Independent Chair), Mr Quintin Howard (Property Director, Queenstown Lakes District Council ('QLDC')), Ms Juliet Breen (Airport Manager), Mr Don Grant (Wānaka Airport Users Group), Mr Andrew Crawford (Commercial Airlines), Mr Jon Brooks (Airways Corporation) and Mr Simon Telfer (Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Chair).

In Attendance

Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Governance Advisor)

Opening Karakia

An opening karakia was presented by Ms Breen.

Apologies

An apology was received from Tony Avery. It was noted that Mr Howard was attending in his place.

Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed without addition or alteration.

Confirmation of minutes

It was moved (Mr Telfer/Mr Crawford):

That the minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on 23 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Motion carried.

1. Wānaka Airport Manager's Report

A report from Juliet Breen presented the following information about Wānaka Airport:

- a. Aircraft Activity
- b. Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents
- c. Complaints Register Summary (incl. noise and operational complaints)
- d. Operational Report (incl. environmental effects, noise, fuelling and fire)



Ms Breen spoke to the report. She noted that the graphs showed that activity was starting to return to 2019 figures (i.e. pre-pandemic). The recent spike in graph 1.4 was Warbirds Over Wānaka.

More detail was provided for each complaint in accordance with the request made at the previous meeting. New complaints were shaded. Three of the four noise complaints were from the same individual. One complaint was for an event outside the operating hours and despite extensive efforts, no aircraft had been located.

It was moved (Mr Telfer/Mr Grant):

That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the report.

Motion carried.

2. Noise Monitoring

It was noted that the monitoring report was received every two years and had been presented at the previous meeting.

3. Wānaka Airport Projects Update

Mr Howard spoke to a PowerPoint presentation.

Aircraft movements

Wānaka was deemed a non-certified General Aviation Airport with its current activity being about 40,000 aircraft movements per year and it was anticipated to achieve 50,000 movements over the next 12 months. Accordingly, it was deemed a 'busy' airport and in the future CAA may require its status to be changed to a qualifying or certified airport.

Landing Fee Changes

The proposed increase to landing fee charges at Wānaka Airport was currently open for consultation as part of a larger group of Council fees and charges (closing 5 May 2024). The fees had not increased for 10 years and a 30% increase was deemed reasonable and aligned fairly with the rest of New Zealand. In the future, more frequent reviews (with possibly small increases) would be undertaken.

Mr Howard confirmed that the increased landing fees would not make Wānaka Airport 'break even'. Landing fees were just one of a number of income streams which also included commercial leases and carparking, both of which had been identified as possible future income streams. Carparking needed to be part of a future master planning process because it had its own expense to implement.

RAF

NASA provided three main rental incomes: lease of hangar, launch pad (on QLDC land) and launch pad (on QAC land). Rental income from the launch pad (QAC land) was not shown in QLDC balance sheet as it was allocated to Queenstown Airport. Hangar lease income and the launch pad on QLDC land appeared in QLDC financials. It was felt that there were better ways of showing this revenue.

Capital Projects

Staff had divided the projects into four work streams (a-d below).

(a) Capital Projects

These projects had approved funding and were all works that QLDC needed to undertake as a good steward of Wānaka Airport.

(b) Aeronautical Study Updates

CAA would confirm by letter which recommendations from the aeronautical study (Part A: Ground Issues) needed to be undertaken and the Council would be required to complete these projects. Part B (Airspace Issues) had not been adopted and was on hold to be considered as part of a master planning process.

CAA had indicated that its response to the aeronautical survey should not be a surprise to the Council and the developments proposed would largely result in Wānaka Airport continuing to operate in a similar way.

Some of recommendations were funded in the QLDC's Long Term Plan and Part A would be undertaken over the next two years. QLDC recognised the importance of the Wānaka Airport master plan but the 2024-34 QLDC Long Term Plan was the current focus of the Council. After adoption of the LTP in September 2024, work could begin on the Wānaka Airport master plan.

(c) Wānaka Airport Management Update

Wānaka Airport Management: QLDC recognised that the current management agreement with QAC was not fit for purpose if Wānaka Airport was a qualifying aerodrome.

(d) Wānaka Airport Future Options

Members asked QLDC to make master planning a priority once there was capacity. The master plan needed to have enough detail to provide some structure but with sufficient latitude to encourage meaningful engagement.

It was agreed:

That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the Council report.



4. Other matters

Mr Howard advised that the Council had been approached by Wānaka Airport lessees for the Council's valuation methodology but this had been refused due to commercial sensitivity. The lessees had decided to get their own valuation and if there was a disparity with the Council's figures, the parties could enter mediation.

A safety concern was raised about a large hole in the Wānaka Airport taxi way (Taxiway Yankee) which could result in a wing strike. This needed to be repaired urgently. Ms Breen undertook to follow up on this concern as there was funding available to repair the hole.

The only negative feedback about Warbirds Over Wānaka had been with traffic management on the practice day but learnings meant that Saturday and Sunday had run more smoothly.

5. Confirming date and location of next meeting

Monday, 14 October 2024 in the Alpine Helicopters Board Room, Wānaka Airport.

6. Closing Karakia

Ms Breen presented a closing karakia.

The meeting concluded at 12:33pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:



CHAIR

DATE

20/12/24