Shalbourne Gliding

Committee Meeting 17th March 2016

Minutes

Present: Colin Baines, Steve Barber, Steve Ottner, Phil Morgan, Pete Smith, Jon Garner, Jim Clarke, Nigel Burt, Roland Pantling

Apologies: None

Correspondence

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved, subject to the following amendment to matters arising: "The committee discussed club rules. Colin Baines has provide previously published rules and Phil Morgan is now dealing with this."

Matters Arising:

Steve Barber advises that the issue related to ex member (M Hoskins) property remaining on Shalbourne Gliding premises is still ongoing. Steve Barber to follow up with Martin.

The open day needs to be publicised and also members need to be made aware of open week. It was suggested that some advertising could be done via the website for which Darren McKillop will need to be contacted.

The minutes secretary is to send out a calling notice in advance of future meetings.

Officers Reports

Airfield Officers Report. (Colin Baines)

Workshop

There is a large void (rabbits/badgers?) underneath the gable end wall of the workshop which has led to a wide crack in the floor. Recent heavy rain has given cause for concern, but does not appear to have made matters any worse. Given the importance of the workshop we should, nevertheless make provision for a major repair. Would it be better to underpin the floor, or rip it down and rebuild from the floor up? Need advice.

Hangar floor

We have obtained a quotation of around £2000 in the past to lay a tarmac floor. At the time there were other priorities, but this is something we should keep in mind, should funds ever permit.

Toilet block leaking roof

Need to meet with Steve Gaze and plan toilet block roof repair c£400?

Damaged sections of airfield

Landlord has undertaken to smooth out the ruts, once the field is dry. There was further discussion concerning the undulations on the airfield.

Permissive footpath

Landlord is in the process of requesting re-routing of the existing bridleway to our preferred route, partly constrained by stock fencing down the western boundary to prevent people from wandering across the field.

Lawn mower

The Hayter mower is with Peter Ellison for major repair (lack of compression). We may need a replacement – something that will tackle long grass and weeds. The Hayter is a good solid mower. There are plenty of second hand ones advertised around the region for £150 - £250. bids will go up when it stops raining. It was agreed that this purchase should go ahead.

Equipment

Skybrid winch disc brakes.

The disc brakes fitted to the Skybrid winch have proven to be a success, however they have created a potential problem inasmuch that an incorrect brake setting, or a hesitation by the retrieve driver can result in a loop being thrown off the outside of the drum. This has hitherto not been too much of a problem, but now there is the strong possibility that such a loop will become entangled in the disc calliper thus causing substantial damage to both calliper and cable. Winch masters should ensure that winch drivers set the brakes correctly and that retrieve drivers check with the winch if they have to stop during tow out.

Vehicles

Land Rover

Phil Morgan has arranged for a professional mechanic to sort out the charging problem and give the vehicle a full service. A charge of £80 for this is considered very reasonable. Once fixed, a very reliable 4WD vehicle.

Shogun

The vehicle has a slipping clutch and it is intended for volunteer members to fit a replacement.

Trooper

The vehicle has no power steering, no 4WD, has a serious overheating problem and has no batteries. Recommend it be sold for scrap.

Pajero

No known problems part from a lack of 4WD. Useful for glider retrieve.

New Trooper

A good solid 4WD vehicle. There is a query over the state of the alternator, else no known problems.

Stolen equipment

The trolley jack has been replaced, but a decision needs to to be made on storage of replacement equipment.

Additional replacement equipment required:

Tool storage box

Hydrometer

Compression tester

45mm socket and wrench for half shaft nuts

Air impact wrench

Air compressor

20m air hose

Tyre inflator

Feeler gauges

Miscellaneous bits we'll remember when we need them

Estimated cost around £400

Generator

Needs annual service

Further updates

The Land Rover is still temperamental to start but it was agreed that we should persevere to get this fixed. Phil is to ask Daniel to revisit to try and trace what is thought to be an electrical fault.

The old Trooper is being kept for spares.

A notice is to be place in the ‘new’ trooper to remind users to only use four wheel drive when absolutely necessary.

Finance

While funds recently dipped to £31K they have recovered to £39K following receipt of annual subscriptions and flying fees.

An unexpected cost has arisen due to a parachute having to be replaced.

Aircraft

Ka8 is due for ARC 29th March but is likely to be off line for a few weeks as Andy Brind will be away.

JMX will fall due after the open week and the Vega will be due in July.

Airfield Licence Renewal

The draft new licence had been submitted to committee members in advance of the meeting. The rent has remained static for the last 7 years and an increase from £14K to £15K is now required.

The meeting was advised that the landlord is planning to erect stock fences along each side of the airfield and is also seeking to have the bridle path moved to the edge of the field. He had also requested to be able to use an area of the field for hay making but this is felt that this is likely to give rise to safety issues.

A discussion was had as to who is liable for insuring the hangar. At present it is the landlord. Steve Barber is to investigate what it would cost the club to insure it.

The draft licence does not include a clause to not charge VAT as the landlord is not VAT registered. This was in the previous licence and needs to be incorporated in the new one.

After the discussions between the landlord and Colin Baines and Steve Barber the former is now going back to his solicitor.

Thanks were expressed to Colin and Steve for the time they have spent on this.

Any Other Business

Stan Oram is now the Club Membership Secretary and is also following up temporary members. He will also be taking over the retention of medical certificates.

Steve Barber has has conversations with Jeremy Knight about taking over the Treasurer's role and is hopeful that this will be concluded before too long.

It was reported that the container had been left unlocked on the previous Sunday. It was noted that the Duty Instructor is responsible for checking the security before leaving.

Trailer parking space is becoming an issue and it was agreed that some rationalisation is needed. Some space could be made available by moving the Red Cross Caravan to the front of the toilet block. Phil advised that he may be looking at what can be done with this later this year.

Chris Keating had provided information concerning the announcement over the Air Cadet gliding school rationalisation. This may result in several Viking gliders coming on to the market. There are some technical and paperwork issues with these but it was felt that these should be investigated to see what potential costs there would be to correct these issues. Colin advised he had discussed this with Chris Keating and as a result Alan Pettit is to speak to Southern Sailplanes to try and obtain more information. Chris Keating to continue his investigating as well.

SUGC will be visiting the club for three days in the week prior to Easter. Stephen Ottner has organised instructor availability and ground crew but the students are more than willing to help out.

The reserve winch rebuild has been blocked in phases. There is one complex phase at the start and then the rest can progress. Phil Morgan is to arrange laser cutting for the new cab and control panel. Rod Harris will be taking responsibility for the disc brake fitting and the guillotines. We are in a critical position in respect of the winches since we currently do not have a reserve winch.

Jonathan Garner is working on a Strategy document for the club.

Next Meeting

To be 2nd June 2016 at 7.30pm, Venue to be advised.