

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 1st April 2021 at 7.00 pm by “Zoom”

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Nigel Wilkes Linda de Carles and Elisabeth Butler, County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and District Councillor Jenny Forde

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Valerie Hancock

Apologies: Mrs Jane Tufnell

The Chairman explained that the meeting was called to discuss the application to amend the terms of the section 106 Agreement relating to Rendcomb Airfield. Any comment by the Council had to be lodged by 20 April.

Councillor Forde said that there had been ongoing complaints about increasing wing-walking activity at the airfield and increased noise. This was in breach of the terms of the Section 106 Agreement, which prohibited commercial use of the airfield. In October 2020 Cotswold District Council had served notice on the owners that they were in breach. The owner had submitted an application to amend the terms of the Agreement, and enforcement proceedings were suspended until that application was determined.

She explained that the breach was not breach of a planning condition, where there would be a time limit for enforcement action, but a breach of the Section 106 Agreement, where she said there was no time limit. The terms of that Agreement could be amended.

The Planning Authority had no control over the air space above the airfield, or over noise levels. This was an unusual situation for which they could find no comparables.

The Clerk mentioned that the application was to remove the prohibition on commercial use and to increase public access to the airfield, which was currently prohibited by the Agreement.

Councillor Martin said that the proposed reduction in the number of flying days from 180 to 150 would have little effect. There were clear risks in increasing the possible commercial use, and a very high number of take-offs were currently permitted.

Councillor Stoten said there needed to be a compromise, and Councillor Forde confirmed this was likely to be the outcome.

Councillor Tufnell said that the main issue was one of noise and environmental nuisance. He had had discussions with Cotswold District Council in the past, but they had been unable to take any action.

Councillor de Carles asked whether the Council could comment when the airfield was not in the Parish. Councillor Tufnell said that the airfield was on the boundary of the parish, and the parish was impacted by its use. If the Council did not comment on the application, it was open to any residents to lodge their own comments, and it was agreed they should be encouraged to do this.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that wing-walking was not the only issue in the application to be considered.

Councillor Tufnell proposed, and it was agreed that the Councillors should each send their comments to the Clerk. She would prepare a draft comment for consideration at the meeting on 12th April.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 pm

Signed

Date