

Minutes of NWEEHPA AGM 2010
Silver Jubilee Hall, Takeley
Wednesday 21 April 2010

1. Apologies for absence had been received from J. Hume, Ms D Johnson, Dorothy Free, Lady Walker, Carol Barbone, Colin Barber, J. Cheetham, Lyn Petts

2. Minutes of the Annual general Meeting of 22 April 2009 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes: there were no matters arising

4. Chairman's Report: the Chairman expressed concerns about the NWEEHPA Executive committee, membership of which had fallen over the past two years and was now down to 5 members. NWEEHPA was important to SSE and we need more Executive members to keep it viable. It had been an up and down year with good and bad – the Labour manifesto had been a bolt out of the blue saying that a second runway would not happen in the next 5 years - although of course they are not saying it will never happen. SSE had done well in keeping up the pressure in fighting second runway proposals and was well recognised and respected.

5. Treasurer's Report: the Treasurer observed that things were much the same as last year and therefore we owe a big debt of gratitude to the background work done by the response committees in preparation for the Inquiry and to all our volunteers, led by Carol Barbone, Peter Sanders and Brian Ross. In the year to September 2009, it was pleasing to note greater membership and parish council contributions as well as fund raising activities, while card and calendar revenues were again a big factor. Total revenues rose by more than 25% to £233,000, including those contributed specifically towards the Runway 2 Inquiry costs. Little change in all forms of expense, with the exception of £30,000 of legal costs, i.e. the Runway 1 Appeal for which we had protected costs, allowed the surplus to increase to £58,000 for the year. There was a fighting fund of £95,000 and net assets of £105,000 at the year end which was a strong and healthy position. The Treasurer thanked Lyn Petts, Reporting Accountant, for her scrutiny of the accounts. She is willing to continue. Mr Cheetham thanked the office for its support and work – it was always a cheerful place to visit. The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Peter Gowan, seconded by Ken McDonald and approved by the members. Mr Gowan thanked the Treasurer for his work.

6 Report on behalf of the Stop Stansted Expansion: Peter Sanders, Chairman of SSE, said that the situation with regard to BAA's second runway application was even more confused than it had been last year. The future ownership of Stansted was more uncertain. BAA had been successful in its appeal against the Competition Commission's decision that it must sell Stansted but the Competition Commission has in turn appealed against that decision and we are now waiting the outcome of that appeal. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham, will not give a date for the start of the Public Inquiry until the ownership situation has been cleared up. BAA has said that it will need 12-18 months to bring its application up to date and would not start work on revising its application until the ownership question is settled. The Inquiry is likely to last up to 18 months. This

means that the Public Inquiry could not start for two or three years and there could not be a decision for four or five years.

There has been a shift in Labour Party policy, the manifesto saying that whilst they support a third runway at Heathrow, they would not allow additional runways to proceed at any other airport in the next Parliament. The Conservative and Liberal Democrats are, of course, still opposed to a second runway. Whatever the outcome of the General Election, because of the delays previously referred to it would be out of the question for a second runway at Stansted to go ahead during the life of the next Parliament. The extraordinary decline in passenger numbers at Stansted – throughput is now running at less than 20 mppa a year - means that there would be no need for a second runway at Stansted for many years.

One of the first tasks of the new Government will be to draw up the National Policy Statement on aviation under the new planning regime and that Statement will then set out the policy that will have to be followed in all relevant planning decisions. It is crucial for us to make sure that it rules out a second runway at Stansted. That must be our first priority. Following the decision in the recent Heathrow case, the Government will now have to take the Climate Change Act into account – the Inspector at the G1 Inquiry would not consider climate change on the ground that it had been covered adequately in the Air Transport White Paper. We will go on insisting that BAA withdraw its 2nd runway application. This would be a victory in the short term. A commitment against a second runway in the National Policy Statement on aviation would be a victory in the long term. We cannot afford to relax our efforts, we must continue to harass BAA on every front. We must press on with our fact-finding, lobbying and fund-raising, not relaxing because we think we're going to win but being all the more encouraged, inspired and determined.

Mr Sanders concluded by thanking members for their support over the past year. Peter Riding asked why there had been no proposal for a second runway at Gatwick. A question was asked about compulsory purchase orders which had been sent out over 2 years ago – this was a breach of people's human rights! The Government cannot stop these – it is up to the applicant to withdraw them. It is difficult to go against Government policy.

7 Election of Officers and the Executive Committee: Those elected were as follows: Peter Gowan, Chairman, proposed Peter Riding, seconded Peter Sanders, Irene Jones, Deputy Chairman, proposed Richard Cheetham, seconded John Lewis, Treasurer, Richard Cheetham, proposed Gillian Cooke, seconded Peter Riding, Secretary, Tricia Barber, proposed Peter Gowan, seconded Gillian Cooke, Peter Sanders (as Chairman of SSE), proposed Richard Cheetham, seconded Ken McDonald. Brian McCraith had retired from the Executive Committee and two new members, John Pryor and Ray Woodcock elected, proposed by Irene Jones, seconded Peter Gowan.

8 Any other business: Brian Ross had taken the place of Peter Gowan on the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee.

A vote of thanks to all those involved in the work of NWEHPA and SSE was given by Mr Simon Cooke.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.