



# WHIRLWIND FIGHTER PROJECT

## Minutes of the AGM held at East Kirkby 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Apologies

Jim Munro, Rob Bowater, Mike Burbank-Clayton, Ewan Watson, Reeve Martin, Mike Eastman, Gunnar Olson, Matt Painter, Brian Dixon, Tom Eeles, Dave Brocklehurst.

### Minutes from last meeting

These were read and passed by the members present. Proposed by Pete Smith and seconded by John Collins.

### Vice Chairman's report

An incredible year for our project with the onboarding of our Chief Engineer, Pete Smith.

The push – and our credibility – came from our use of AA, but this was never sustainable as a long-term solution.

AA are geared to the sort of costs expected by operators of flying historic aircraft.

Huge thanks to Steve Vizard and the team for their high-quality work, the real “seed” of our project. Steve has assured us of his ongoing support, and there will doubtless be special jobs that only AA can do later on.

In the mean time we are grateful also for the support of Dave Brocklehurst MBE and the Kent Battle of Britain Museum Trust, who are already planning their Whirlwind exhibit and to whom we will be shipping Pete's work within the coming year.

## Secretary's report

First of all, I would like to say that it's good to be able to meet again face to face after all this time.

I was determined that we should get back to proper meetings as soon as possible so that you can see with your own eyes the amount of work that Pete Smith has carried out on P7056 over the past year.

I would also like to welcome our new Chairman Tom Eeles to his first AGM.

I have been running a Go Fund me campaign over the last few months which has raised £515 so far and is still ongoing.

Peter Lancaster and myself have visited the Kent Battle of Britain Museum trust twice during the past year and have been able to advertise the Project by handing out flyers to all who were interested.

I have sent out begging letters to several aviation companies who I thought may be interested in sponsorship but received no replies which considering what this year has been like I'm not too surprised at, but I will keep trying.

I have been approached by the Horley and district Probus Club in Sussex to give a talk on the project. I am waiting for their speaker secretary to get back to me.

The team has been continuing with their monthly on-line meetings to discuss any engineering problems or unforeseen difficulties that need clearing up. So far nothing has been insurmountable.

We have also held 3 of our quarterly P7056 club meetings which appear to have gone down quite well, the last one even better, as I finally got to grips with Zoom so that members could see rather than just hear the video. The next one will be held on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

## Treasurer's report

Year start-	£932.73	
Year end (Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> )-	£2832.26	
Out goings	£4763.57	£2378.64 Airframe Assemblies £1912.03 Pete Smith for Cockpit etc
Income	£6663.10	From donations, online sales and fund raising.

Of Which; £2000 from one source.

Regular but variable income of average £100 per month from our GoFundMe campaign.

The rest- you know who you are, and thank you.

We are below the HMRC income threshold of £10,000 but still need to sign a Charity Commission declaration, upon their request which I have not received- my task to investigate.

## Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reports that during the 2020/21 membership year we started that year with 38 Annual members and 6 Life members. During the 20/21 year just ending we have had, at present, 9 of those annual members not respond to my entreaties to renew – with two outstanding requests. However, we have had 9 new members join – so, overall the Annual membership has remained steady. Of those 9 new members 6 are from the UK – the other three from the USA, Germany and Australia. We have also attracted four new Life members, all from the UK. All those renewals and the additional life memberships have added an important £1700 to the project coffers. The large majority of members reside in the UK, but we do have members from the USA, Australia, New Zealand (3!), France, Germany and Denmark. During this last year we have sent regular Newsletters to all Members – one every quarter and we have had a few Club Nights whereby we invite all members to join in on a Zoom call where we have tried to give members more direct knowledge of those brave airmen that flew the Westland Whirlwind, and to give a first-hand account of how the progress is

going of building the static replica of P7056 – the Pride of Yeovil. From time-to-time the Membership Secretary sends out interim notices to the membership if a particularly interesting or significant element of the build comes to pass. It is hoped that, given the slowly improving health situation in this country, and round the world, some members can actually meet at air shows and such-like events!

## Election of Officers

Did not take place due to inability to contact our chairman.

All team to stay in place till next year.

(I have since found out the Toms email address had been hacked and he had been unable to send or receive emails. This has now been corrected).

## A.O.B

John Collier asked if we could supply some Polo shirts with our logo on as he feels it's a good way to advertise. Secretary to contact Rob Bowater regarding this.

Stephen Smith asked if there were any further plans to visit Dartmoor? Matt Bearman said that another attempt to locate the crash site would be made next year and that he would be welcome to come along if he wanted.

Further discussions were held about Dartmoor and Matt explained what we found on our last visit.

John Collier asked if it was possible to create a DVD about the Whirlwind including many of the interviews with the Pilots. Secretary to contact Jim Munro regarding this possibility.

Meeting closed at 15:00 next meeting TBA.

The Whirlwind Fighter Project is registered with HMR&C as a Charitable Unincorp Body  
Charity number EW37349

The Whirlwind Fighter Project is a member of Aviation heritage UK  
The Secretary Chris Hayward, 57 Bramblefield lane, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2SX  
[whirlwindfighterproject@outlook.com](mailto:whirlwindfighterproject@outlook.com)  
Website-[whirlwindfighterproject.co.uk](http://whirlwindfighterproject.co.uk)