



*Minutes of the AGM held Via Zoom on Sunday the 29th September
2024.*

Apologies.

Jim Munro, Tom Eeles, Matt Painter, Mike Eastman.

Present

14 members

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were read and proposed by Pete Smith and seconded by Dave Brocklehurst MBE.

Chairman's Report

The Westland Whirlwind Fighter Project has had an excellent year with the completion and installation of the fuselage and on-programme, thanks to the genius and hard work of our Chief Engineer Pete Smith. The Projects sincere thanks to Pete for bringing our dreams and aspirations to a reality.

Pete has also made good progress on the construction of the tail section and despite a recent hiccup with his health, this remains on target to complete and install this to the fuselage in November 2025. We stress November 2025 as Aeroplane Monthly sadly edited a news feature I recently wrote on the Project and dropped the '2025'!

It has become evident to the Trustees that as the Project progresses, grows, becomes a reality rather than a dream, and larger funds are required to complete each stage, that we have needed to review the setup of the Project.

We are pleased to report that we have reviewed various areas of the Project and have updated the Constitution as part of this process. We were previously recognised by HMRC as a small charity but Chris Hayward, our secretary, is currently progressing the full registration of the Project with the Charity Commission, in hope that we will be able to raise larger sums of money to fund such things as the main spars etc. It will also mean looking at and streamlining our donation platforms and accountancy processes, to conform to the requirements of the Charity Commission and once a Charity Number has been issued, this will become easier to have dedicated accounts and online donation platforms for the Project.

Through my position of Chairman also of the Kent Battle of Britain Museum Trust, Head Volunteer, and lead on many of our restoration projects, we have recently brought on board to the Project Jamie Clark (now a signed-up member of the Project) who has been brilliant with everything involving 3D Printers. This has meant that previous projects that we thought were impossible are now very achievable and including the 3D printing of two Rolls Royce Peregrine engines for the Project. Jamie has recently printed a ¼ scale engine from scans provided by Pete Smith and this will be finished within the next week. This will allow Pete to study the process so we can achieve and fine tune the printing of full-size engines and together with an engineering issues in the near future.

Our sincere thanks to Jamie who started by printing two accumulators for the fuselage earlier this year.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their continuing support and encouragement. Through my position at the Museum and the home of the Project it has been rewarding to meet a number of the Members who have visited to see the progress of the Whirlwind including Timo a couple of weeks ago.

Secretary's Report.

As I explained last year, we have a continual battle with the crowdfunding organisations in getting our donation from them, and with our donations etc starting to increase to over £5000 per year which takes us out of the cover of HMR&C. I now have to approach the Charity Commission for their oversight. The application has already started with notification of Trustees. I have tidied up the constitution to make it more presentable without changing any of the

wording. This should be ready to be sent off in the next couple of weeks.

I have had a meeting with Allan Winn of AHUK and we have returned the Robert Fleming Memorial Award trophy to them so that it can be passed on to another worthy cause in October, at the Yorkshire Air Museum; a meeting which I shall attend, as Matt Bearman will be giving one of the lectures on that day.

I have also attended meetings of the AHUK at the RAF Museum and at Newark Air Museum. This has afforded us valuable networking opportunities.

We also had some business cards printed which includes a QR code that goes direct to our website and makes it easier for people to donate to the project.

Merchandise is now available via Redbubble at no cost to the project. We do get a small commission from all sales; every little helps as they say.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of accounts 2023-2024:

Opening balance:		£820.18
	OUT -	IN -
	Materials and sundries:	Membership fees and donations:
Oct		£1,572.53
Nov		£104.85
Dec	£224.07	£121.95
Jan	£542.73	£341.05
Feb	£97.42	£80.25
Mar	£55.59	£36.00
Apr	£692.56	£908.07
May	£15.59	£317.19
Jun	£1,288.35	£54.87
Jul	£577.38	£673.58
Aug	£120.32	£654.54
Sep		£1,749.84
Totals	£3,614.01	£6,614.72
Variation		£3,000.71
Year End		£3,820.89

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reported last AGM that at the end of the 2022/23 membership year (October – September) we had 50 Annual members and 20 Life members. At this AGM I can happily report we now have 59 current annual members and 21 Life members. There's always those who chose not to carry on with us on the project but 17 new members have joined in the last year alone. Thus, membership has steadily grown to number eighty. There has been a notable increase in the numbers of annual members who keep choosing to renew their memberships. This is a great benefit to the project's funding. Over 30 annual members have renewed at least 2 times – they are not 'lifers' but definitely qualify for the term 'old-lags'. Up to date – since the scheme opened in October 2019 – members have contributed a gross amount of £9475 in membership fees. A small number have donated other amounts (large and small) via our various fund-raising efforts; some of these have been regular amounts (monthly to the bank) or irregular amounts as people are able. There's also been a few larger donations; all of which together have boosted our funds noticeably in the last 18 months. All members are highly appreciated for their contributions – but Life members are wonderful; the Membership Secretary does not have to chase them for renewals! Our current membership (annual and life) encompasses members from New Zealand (3), the USA (6), France (2), Germany (2), Denmark (1), Canada (1) and Norway (1). UK-based members make up the vast majority. During this last year we have continued to send regular Newsletters to all members and we have had a few Club Nights whereby we invite all members to join in on a Zoom call where we have focused on giving 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.

Engineer's Report

Completed work - Phase Two.

The completion of the rear fuselage and internal fit out was accomplished in June 2024.

The transportation to the Kent Battle of Britain Museum was undertaken on Friday 28th June.

Saturday and Sunday were taken up by the complex fitting of the rear fuselage to the cockpit section, the tail fin spar and its associated fittings being temporarily fitted to align the three sections.

Numerous internal fittings and connections were made prior to the coupling of the fuselage to the cockpit.

The flight control tubes were also connected to the rudder bar and control column.

Two teams, one from WFP and one from KBoBM were heavily involved in the operation.

Some finishing work is required on the taping of the connection joint.

Phase Three.

The tail section is now in build.

The connection angles and lower fin connecting plate are complete.

The undercarriage locking anchor plate is complete.

The fin nose ribs have been manufactured.

The asymmetric rudder screen has been rolled and formed. All of these components have been green fitted to the fin spar.

Patterns and castings have been manufactured for the lower rudder pivot plate and the elevator centre pivot bearing bracket.

The lower pivot bracket has been green fitted to the lower fin trailing rib and the curved diaphragm rib.

The tail plane connecting structure has been manufactured and green fitted to the tail plane spar and fin spar.

The upper and lower rudder pivot points have been located and aligned.

Programme of on-going work

Work previously completed:

The rear tail wheel structure is complete and has been test fitted to the lower fin spar casting.

CAD model and drawings for the tail structure.

To do

To complete the lower fin structure. To produce the rudder components.

To complete the tail plane spar structure.

To manufacture the tail plane components.

Produce the required skins and finally assemble the fin and tail plane for transport.

A great deal of fitting, assembly and finishing will be undertaken at KBoBM once the tail structure is transported to the Museum in the end of 2025 closed season.

On-going complementary work

A decision was made to provide P7056 with two replica Peregrine engines. In liaison with Jamie, it was decided to produce two 3D printed engines. We have undertaken all the design and model work required and have produced the first 1/4 scale engine for assessment and development. This being required to allow for remodeling and strengthening of some of the internal structures to allow for the fitment of propeller shafts and propeller brackets.

In connection with the KBoBM Heinkel He111 project. The two projects will use the same shaft and bracket design, while incorporating their own individual propeller blades.

The patterns and castings for both projects being sponsored by KBoBM.

Fundraising

This was discussed and understood that further monies are required to be able to meet the needs of the construction and that further action will be needed to be able to finish what we started.

New sponsors welcome.

Election of officers

All team members stood for another year and this was accepted by all members present. Dave Smith Proposed and Alma Smith seconded motion.

A.O.B

The secretary and treasurer will be attending the next meeting of AHUK at the Yorkshire air museum, Pete smith asked if this can be recorded. AHUK record all their meeting so a link to this will not be a problem.

Member Heijo Kuil who volunteers at the Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum at Paine Field, Washington State in the USA, asked if we could supply him with leaflets so that he could publicise the project over in the USA. We agreed to send him some.

Date for next AGM TBA.

Honorary President Tom Eeles

Honorary Vice president Jim Munro

Member of the Aviation Heritage UK

Charity number EW37349

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