BURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting of Tuesday 9th June 2026 held at the Centenary Hall, Wheelers Lane, Smallfield

OPEN FORUM: Two members of the public attended but did not speak

Attendance: Chairman Ashleigh Bolton, Cllrs Andrew Gilbert, Alison Lewis, Andrew McLean, Debbie Hale, Donna Morris, Eddie Lord and Mr Alson Jones. Cllr Cat Dodman attended via Zoon, East Surrey Cllr Nick Greenfield.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs Bob Locke and John Carney for reasons accepted by Committee
2. No declarations of interest and no dispensations required.
3. To sign the minutes of Tuesday 14th April 2026
4. No matters arising from the minutes
5. GatCom report from Mr Jones (appended to the minutes)

   Mr Jones updated the Committee regarding the 'whine' noise emanating from the A220. The DfT has followed up and, whilst the issue has been rectified for all new planes, it will take time to retro-fit planes already in use.

   The impact of the Iran/USA war continues to impact airlines and Emirates have reduced their daily flights from 4 to 2.

   The downturn in flights post covid continues to have an impact, there is still a 4% reduction in flights compared to 2019.

   Cllr Gilbert asked if there were set times when flights must stop at night and commence in the morning. Mr Jones advised that while there is an 11.30pm curfew and a daily start time of 6.02am, there is a noise quota allowance for both the winter and summer seasons.
6. Update on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (if any) – Cllr Hale informed Committee that the Reg 16 consultation is live and comments must be submitted before 25th June 2026. For this consultation all comments must be directed toward Tandridge District Council. Hopefully later this year the Inspector will pass the plan and there will be a referendum.
7. Update on Men's Shed – Cllr Gilbert said that Prime Stables would be visiting the Hall next week to provide a full quote to include the ground works, plumbing and electric. The Clerk said that during a conversation with the Boxall Ward engineers they said that their workshop is closing down and they would be able to donate workbenches and tools to the Men's Shed. The Clerk explained that Big Lottery and some other grant providers don't seem to be awarding large amounts of money and instead they offer advice on crowd funding. She said that

she will apply for funding there and that other possible sources such as our MP, Surrey CC and CoOp

8. Cllr Lord proposed that BPC ratify the decision to make an Asset of Community Value application for the Shipley Bridge Inn, seconded by Cllr Hale and carried unanimously. The Clerk informed Committee the application had been successful.

9. Committee agreed to hold interviews with the three prospective councillors on Tuesday 16th June, commencing at 7.30pm The Clerk was asked to make the arrangements.

10. No Councillor felt comfortable with managing the social media on behalf of the Council. The Clerk will maintain it until such time as an admin assistant is appointed. The Clerk was asked to include social media and website maintenance/uploading to the job description. She was asked to advertise the position on the local Facebook page and also to contact Tandridge and Surrey officers as they may be interested in the role.

11. Update (if any) from Councillors areas of responsibility

Cllr Locke – Drainage – Boxall ward have attended on site. The Clerk needed to have the chamber emptied so that they can return to see what work is required.

Cllr Bolton – Centenary Hall, Keepers Corner nature garden and car park – the British gas volunteers attended on the 13th May and worked very hard clearing a large area that had been covered with brambles. Now that it has been cleared some 'Community' volunteering days can be organised to progress the work further.

Cllr Gilbert – Playgrounds with Cllr Hale – All is well with the QU2 playground. There are two holes in the skate ramp that the TDC officer, Catherine Dainkhe, believes are costly to repair and she intends to remove the current ramp, replacing it with a far smaller, less challenging concrete structure. This is despite the current ramp still benefiting from the original 25-year guarantee for the steel frame. The Clerk was asked to email the TDC officer saying that the Parish Council will arrange and pay for the repairs needed and that the Council does not want to see the ramp removed.

Cllr Morris – School Liaison – nothing to report

Cllr McLean –Cllr Mc lean has confirmed he is happy to take on Litter Picking and Nature Garden with Cllr Bolton

Cllr Dodman – Dowlands Lane field – all is well

12. Items of an urgent nature brought to Committee's attention for inclusion on a future agenda and other matters

The Clerk was asked to write to the household on the corner of Plough Road and Redehall Road requesting they cut their hedge as it is blocking the pavement.

Cllr Hale said there was a tree branch overhanging Weatherhill Road from Grange Way that could be dangerous. The Clerk was asked to take a look and arrange remedial work if necessary.

The Clerk was asked to send pictures of the new dog bag dispensers to Simon Mander at TDC and get his consent to attached them to the dog bins.

Cllr Gilbert reported he attended the blessing of the new church spire, carried out by the bishop. He said that it was an excellent occasion.

There being no further business, members of the press and public were asked to withdraw from the meeting so that Committee may discuss confidential matters – Surgery Lease

Signed ..... Dated .....

CONFIDENTIAL

13. Surgery Lease – the Clerk circulated the draft heads of terms in advance of the meeting. Broadly, Committee approved of the details however, requested two amendments. The first being that instead of a rent review every 7-years, that there be an annual increase in line with RPI. The second item was that they wanted a guarantee that the Surgery would pay all of the legal costs and not just up to £4,000, in the event that the surgery was responsible for pushing the costs over the agreed amount.

Signed ..... Dated .....

Aviation Report – June 2026

Alan Jones

Introduction

I have attended 4 meetings since the last F&GP meeting as follows:

30th April – GATCOM in person

6th May – NATMAG Pre-meeting

14th May – NATMAG

27th May – FLOPSC

The GACT meeting scheduled for 13th May has been re-scheduled to 6th July.

GATCOM MEETING – 30TH APRIL 2026

Steering Group Feedback

- Steering Group acknowledged the diverse views from residents affected by Route 4 and that would be dependent on their location with respect to the proposed options. For that reason, it was agreed that GATCOM should not support a particular option or have a view on how options should be prioritised. Both these points were included in the GATCOM consultation response which was circulated to all members via email and then submitted to GAL last week. The response has been added to the GATCOM website.
- Steering Group also had the opportunity to review the draft Noise Action Plan Annual Progress Report. As stated in the report this had previously also been reviewed by NaTMAG. Steering Group had no further comments and recommended that GATCOM approve the report for publication.
- GATCOM approved the Noise Action Plan Annual Progress Report
- We keep appraised of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and review any changes to GATCOM membership as needed.

I expressed my regret that meetings would be organised with half digital and the rest in person as I believe much is gained both before and after 'in person' meetings and this will be lost.

Passenger Advisory Group

This voluntary group work very closely with Gatwick Airport surveying, reporting back being involved in developing improvements for passengers. A good report was presented with less complaints and more compliments.

The chairman presenting the report considered it mentioning that the new EU Entry/Exit System (EES) was now in place. This new electronic system replaces the physical stamping of passports at passport control when arriving in and departing from the participating European countries. It has been reported that some travellers had experienced long queues at some European airports. ABTA and Airlines UK have been working closely to ensure that information is available and that Airlines work closely

with European airports and governments to ensure a smooth process for passengers. However, since GATCOM, I understand that the EU had suspended the EES because of the huge delays and backlog over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

GATCOM received a report from here in March from Pierre-Hugues Schmit, Chief Executive Officer, GAL on activity at the airport over the past quarter.

- Jet2 which began operations in March will operate from London Gatwick flying to 29 destinations. Jet2 will operate six A321neo's with five permanently based at Gatwick. Jet2's arrival also creates more than 300 direct jobs across flight deck, cabin crew, engineering, and ground operations.

- Gatwick now has over 60 Airlines with passengers able to choose from more than 230 destinations.

- New airlines include AirAsia X, Condor, Air Arabia, Air France, Eurowings, Pegasus, Animawings and Beijing Capital Airlines.

- A new way of managing aircraft movements on the ground has been introduced, moving from one Air Traffic ground controller to two. This change is designed to make the airfield smoother, even safer and more resilient.

- The situation in the Middle East is being closely monitored. This has obviously resulted in some disruption across global aviation with some flights to and through the region being cancelled or rerouted due to airspace closures and safety restrictions. GALs focus is on working with airlines to support passengers. Emirates Airlines reduced from 4 to now 2 flights per day but other airlines have seen an increase in load factors - such as Singapore Airlines. (the answer regarding flights to Middle Eat and how was Iran war affecting airlines, particularly the new airline services in that area)

- The outcome of the legal Judicial Review for the Northern Runway DCO is expected soon.

- London Gatwick was headline sponsor of the Gatwick Diamond Business Awards in March 2026. Two Gatwick colleagues were also finalists; one in the Apprentice of the Year category, and the other in the Employee of the Year category.

Questions from members as a result of the CEO report, and the responses given, included the following:

• Malcolm Fillmore, member for Rusper Parish Council, praised the STEM Centre as a venue and was impressed with its main use to bring schools into Gatwick. He had also recently visited the Gatwick Aviation Museum and asked if GAL would consider closer working with them, particularly around school visits. Pierre-Hugues agreed to look into this.

• Alan Jones, Burstow Parish Council, asked how the Middle East situation was affecting figures this year. Pierre-Hugues stated that it was too soon to predict numbers for 2026. Passenger numbers have been fluid so far and although there has been a reduction in flights to the area this has largely been offset by additional flights via alternative routes.

• Mike George, Horley Town Council, asked what the current situation was regarding jet fuel supply. Pierre-Hugues stated that currently all airlines are reporting availability for the standard 2-month horizon that is planned. Markets have reorganised and the Department for Transport and Department for Energy are sharing a certain level of confidence.

Gatwick Airport Surface Access Strategy update.

A good report by Hannah Godfrey on Surface Access Strategy. There is plenty of work in progress on all forms of transport to increase take-up of Public Transport.

Airspace Update

Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy provided the following updates in relation to airspace and noise, Route 4 Airspace Change consultation.

He explained that Route 4 is one of nine departure flight procedures from Gatwick, and the consultation has been about the reintroduction of satellite-based navigation to Route 4. Andy explained that all the other main runway departure routes have satellite

navigation. A 14-week consultation was launched on 20 January and closed on 28 April. The consultation is part of a 7-stage detailed process set out by the CAA. The consultation is stage 3 of the process.

Some positive feedback and challenging input was received during the consultation period, and an incredibly high number of responses have been received. Andy thanked everyone who had taken part. GAL will now take time to review all the feedback and responses.

A consultation response document will be produced and submitted to the CAA before being published on the CAA airspace change portal.

Noise Action Plan Annual Progress Report

Following GATCOM's approval of the Noise Action Plan Annual Progress Report, Andy provided a brief explanation. He explained that it is a statutory requirement for Gatwick Airport to have a Noise Action Plan and that every 5 years it needs to be refreshed. NaTMAG provides the scrutiny function and reviews, on a rolling basis, 3 of the 42 actions at each quarterly meeting. As well as reviewing in detail the Annual Progress Report, which updates on how all 42 actions are being progressed, NaTMAG also undertake a deep dive review of the NAP halfway through its life cycle and that is due later this year.

The 2025 Annual Progress Report has now been reviewed by NaTMAG and GATCOM Steering Group and is now approved by GATCOM.

NATMAG – 14TH MAY 2026

We look at outstanding actions early in the meeting and one of them related to an individual who lives at Broadbridge Heath who continues to send noise complaints. GAL have written to this person on three occasions inviting a meeting to take place but have not received a reply. Horsham DC are intending to arrange a meeting with them, and hope they will not be ignored too, so they can find out why so many complaints.

Early Arrivals

In a previous report I stated that Gatwick were concerned at the increased amount of aircraft arrivals during the night period that were scheduled to arrive between 06.00 and 07.00. We had a presentation by Peter Jarvis (GAL), on the progress of a scheme to hold these aircraft in a stack and release them at appropriate times to land. This should help residents to prevent their sleep being disturbed too early. The scheme has commenced and we await further reports back at some future date on whether it has been successful. So far, 14 flights have been held back.

Airspace Office Key Performance Indicators (Q1 2026)

- c/w the same quarter in 2025, total aircraft movements are down by approx. 4%.

- both CDO performance and track keeping conformance had improved, with both metrics exceeding 90%, and track keeping conformance reaching nearly 95%.

- whilst the total number of noise complaints had increased significantly, the number of individual complainants had actually decreased by 12.5%. This indicated that a smaller number of individuals were submitting a higher volume of complaints.

Airline Noise Performance Table (ANPT)

- A detailed discussion took place regarding the definition of Horley in relation to overflight rules. Mike George explained that the current definition reflects the geographic boundaries established in the 1960s and does not account for subsequent residential expansion, particularly to the north of the town. He stated that this creates a situation where some residents consider themselves to be within Horley but are not included within the official overflight monitoring area. The group agreed that while it would not be practical to continually update operational boundaries, the wording used in official documentation could be clarified. Andy Sinclair confirmed that any formal change would require external approval and could not be implemented unilaterally. It was agreed that this matter would be taken offline for further review.

Department for Transport (DfT) Update

- Adrian Eaton provided an overview of recent internal changes within the Department for Transport. He explained that following a departmental restructure last year, aviation noise policy now sits within a revised aviation decarbonisation and environment directorate. He confirmed that these changes are now fully embedded.
- Adrian advised that a significant proportion of current DfT resource is focused on the Heathrow expansion programme. This work is being undertaken in advance of the forthcoming consultation on revisions to the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), which is expected to be published shortly.
- It is the DfT's intention to publish two major pieces of research: 1. Aviation Night Noise Effects Study (ANNE), 2. Aviation Noise Attitudes Survey (ANAS). He stated that it is the DfT's objective for both studies to be published before the launch of the ANPS consultation.
- He also provided an update on ongoing work with York Aviation examining the socioeconomic impacts of night flying. He confirmed that an initial draft of the

modelling report has been received and that the DfT is aiming to publish this work before the Parliamentary summer recess.

- Adrian explained that although the current extension to the night flight regime only came into effect in October last year, the DfT has already begun early consideration of the process for the post 2028 night-flight regime.

Route 4 Airspace Change

Goran Jovanovic gave an update on this change as follows;

- Approximately 182 individuals participated directly in the engagement sessions.
- Gatwick has, to date, received: 1,803 online responses,
- 16 paper responses, and
- 11 phone call enquiries.
- He advised that while no further submissions are anticipated, any late responses received will be included in the analysis.
- The geographical distribution of responses was as follows: Approximately 92% originated from Surrey, reflecting the primary location of the proposed route,
- Around 6% were from West Sussex, and
- A small number of responses were received from other areas, including Leicestershire, linked to the location of the British Gliding Association's central office.
- In terms of respondent type: Approximately 97.5% of responses were from individual local residents,
- The remaining responses were submitted by organisations, including a number of local businesses.

FLOPSC – 27TH MAY 2026

I attended the FLOPSC meeting on 27th May and I am reporting back on some of the issues raised there that you may find of interest.

1. Some attention to safety aspects around aircraft were discussed, particularly an accident on the ground at Manchester where ground staff fell 35 feet from the rear door of A321 aircraft because he was unaware that no platform was in place for him to step on. This also led onto other near misses at Gatwick so improvements to safety were discussed and actions taken away.

2. I raised what I had at NATMAG regarding go arounds and slow to roll and FLOPSC are going to investigate it further.

3. I also raised Horley Overflying and the wording of the AIP. I was reminded by Kim that she and Andy are following this up but she was happy I had raised it.

Future Meetings

6th July – GACT winding-up meeting

16th July – GATCOM on TEAMS

28th July – NATMAG Pre-meeting

6th August – NATMAG

BPC/Aviation/JUNE26future agenda