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Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the WASSI, 11 February 2024

Opening:

The Annual General meeting of the Walsh Aviation Support Society Inc (WASSI) opened at 1810hrs NZDT on Sunday the 11th of February 2024.

Attended by:

Clive Williams, Peter Mount, Jeffrey Walton, Steven Bodt, Carlton Campbell, Carolyn Craig, Phillip Craig, Gordon Ragg, Nicholas Vanderschantz, David Jupp, Timothy Whitehead, Janelle Rouse, Scott Cowley, Ross Crawford, Mark Woodhouse

Apologies were received from:

Bianca Barbarich-Bacher, James Hillson, Nicola Vanderschantz, Steve Scott, Jill Smith

Resignations received from:

No resignations were received.

A motion was tabled that the apologies be accepted.

It was moved by Mark Woodhouse and Seconded by Phill Craig that the record of attendance and apologies be accepted. These records were accepted unanimously.

Introduction:

The meeting was opened and chaired by Mark Woodhouse who welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Minutes of the previous WASSI AGM held in Matamata 14 January 2023 were circulated prior to the meeting. No matters were discussed as arising from these minutes and members did not have any questions regarding these.

The minutes of the 2023 WASSI AGM were moved as accepted as a true and accurate record by Mark Woodhouse and seconded by Steven Bodt. These minutes were passed unanimously as accurate with no matters arising.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman tabled and spoke to his report.

A copy of the Chairman's Report was circulated to members via email to the Society on 12 January 2024. A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these minutes.

Mark spoke specifically to the following.

Current status of WASSI Fleet:

- five of the six aircraft we own are now airworthy
- all five PA38 Tomahawks are leased
- C152A (ZK-MUM) restoration is yet to be completed, but is expected in 2024
- 2 machines to be painted & avionics to be improved, with funding expected in 2024

Mark reiterated that the goal of the WASSI fleet is to put students in the highest standard of aircraft that we possibly can.

Mark noted that informal reports from Society Members who were a part of WMSFS in 2024 highlighted the pride of members to be contributing to the School and the WASSI. Anecdotal reports to Mark that seeing and flying the WASSI fleet reinforced for new and old members the value of the Society's goals and the reasons that members provide their time and financial support.

Financial situation:

Mark spoke of the John Richards bequest to WMSFS. Of this bequest the WMSFS Committee worked with the Bequest Trustee to apportion 50% of this bequest to the WASSI to ensure the purchase of a new machine. This resulted in the purchase and restoration of ZK-JRS.

Pub Charities and Lion Foundation funding was unsuccessful in 2023, these will be revisited in 2024.

1 interest free loan to the Society was paid back in 2023, and 2 loans have been extended. Currently the Society benefits from two loans totalling \$45,000 NZD. A Bank Overdraft Facility was investigated in 2023, however this was unsuccessful.

Aircraft Leases:

- ZK-FML is to move from Wellington Aero Club to Air Hawkes Bay
- Remaining 4 PA38 under lease agreements that are working well at present
- Two organisations interested in leasing MUM when completed

Priorities for 2024:

It is not expected that the Society will pursue new aircraft in 2024. When funds provide in the future, it is expected that the Society would pursue additional C152 aircraft to keep the balance of low wing and high wing aircraft across the fleet. Projects proposed as priorities for 2024 were:

- Completion of ZK-MUM
- Repayment of 2 outstanding loans
- Improvement of aircraft as funds allow
- Increase WASSI member involvement in fleet management and Society undertakings
- Increased marketing, including website updates and addition of a social media programme

Succession planning:

Mark noted that the committee consists of predominantly older Society Members. He suggested it is time for younger members to take the reins. This is recorded in the minutes as a work-package for the next two years to promote secondment to the WASSI Committee of younger members to take on Committee roles which will come due at the 2026 WASSI AGM.

Noted in discussion was the opportunity for delegation of significant tasks that the chairperson currently leads. These include those roles previously noted:

1. Fundraising Officer
2. Maintenance Control/Fleet Management Officer
3. Restoration Officer
4. Leasing Officer

Society Members are actively encouraged to identify and promote specific members to take up the 4 roles listed above. In the first instance potential officers for these roles should contact the Chairperson.

A member raised the potential to use Society funds to support mentoring of members into these roles. It was suggested that Society Funds could be used for course enrolments and budgeting for support staff training for roles that could be beneficial to the Society and to WMSFS.

The Chairman wished to reiterate what a successful year 2023 had been and recognized the work by Committee and Society members to achieve such progress in 2023.

A motion was tabled that the Chairman's Report be received and entered into the records of the Society. It was moved by Nic Vanderschantz, seconded by Janelle Rouse that the Chairman's Report be accepted. This was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer tabled and spoke to the Annual Accounts.

A copy of the Annual Accounts was circulated to members via email to the society on 12 January 2024. A copy of the Annual Accounts is attached to these minutes.

The Treasurer asked to first acknowledge in the minutes the success of the 2024 Walsh given the difficulties of COVID-19 at the School. The Treasurer noted the significant achievement it was for the Walsh Committee to achieve the objectives of the School in trying conditions.

The Treasurer directed members to the accounts circulated and highlighted the income and expenditures for the preceding year. Noted in discussion was that the Society is in a financially stronger position than it has been in the past. It was noted the Committee is working to intentionally manage timings of expenditures in line with donations, fundraising, and support, while recognizing the uncertainties of aircraft ownership and maintenance. The support of the loans and donations are noted as critical in facilitating the successes of the Society.

The Treasurer acknowledged the significant number of Society Members who regularly contribute financially and reminded members that they are entitled to file yearly tax returns for donations

made to Society. The Treasurer noted that they would be happy to answer any questions about this that members might have. These contributions are central to supporting the society to achieve its goals. It was noted that receipts will be forthcoming in May.

The significant bequest of John Richards was discussed by the Treasurer and it was noted that this may be something that members may wish to consider for their own Will and Testament. Should members wish to do so and require support the Treasurer is happy to discuss the processes one might take in preparing a bequest.

A motion was tabled that the Annual Accounts be received and entered into the records of the Society. It was moved Ross Crawford seconded by Phil Craig that the Treasurers Report be accepted. This was passed unanimously.

Warbirds Over Wanaka

An opportunity to have a static display and stand at Warbirds Over Wanaka was presented to the Society. This is a 3 Day event (29, 30, 31 March 2024) attended by approximately 50,000 people. This will be an opportunity to promote WASSI & WMSFS to a unique market.

Four members are currently available to support the stand on the weekend. Additional members to support would be welcomed.

Required work packages include

- development of a flyer for the WASSI/WMSFS
- website updating
- social media presence and promotion

Election of Committee Members:

According to the constitution, committee positions are of a two-year term and therefore these required re-election at the 2024 AGM. Nominations were called for prior to the AGM in accordance with the constitution.

Nominations were received by the secretary for:

Mark Woodhouse (Chairman)

Steven Bodt (Treasurer)

Nicholas Vanderschantz (Secretary)

John Hamilton (Committee Member)

Stephen Scott (Committee Member)

David Jupp (Committee Member)

No further nominations were received.

The following committee members were voted into roles for a two-year term from February 2024 until February 2026.

A motion was tabled that the WASSI Committee comprise:

Mark Woodhouse (Chairman)

Steven Bodt (Treasurer)

Nicholas Vanderschantz (Secretary)

John Hamilton (Committee Member)

Stephen Scott (Committee Member)

David Jupp (Committee Member)

It was moved that the WASSI committee comprise these members until 2026 by Gordon Ragg, and seconded by Phil Craig. This motion was passed unanimously.

Motions to be Considered:

No motions were tabled by members either before or during the AGM.

General Business / Questions:

No general business was raised.

Conclusion:

The Annual General Meeting of the Walsh Aviation Support Society Inc. (WASSI) closed at 1927hrs NZDT on Sunday the 11th of February 2024.