

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 2008

PRESENT:	Mr R Stuart (Chairman) Councillor Nick Pring (Vice Chairman)	East Devon Business Forum Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Mr J Christon	EDAL
	Mr J Spooner	EDAL
	Mr J Payne	EDAL
	Councillor B Nicholson	East Devon District Council
	Mrs S Coward	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor B Limb	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor J Smith	Farringdon Parish Council
	Councillor D Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Mr M A R Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Mr N Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Mr C Lane	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Mrs M A Trigger	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Miss S Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Councillor G Sheldon	Exeter City Council
	Councillor I Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Mrs M Trigger	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor M Arthurs	Broadclyst Parish Council
APOLOGIES:	Mr T Salter	Farringdon House Committee

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.15 pm.

*24 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 December 2007 and 18 February 2008, were confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to the addition of Councillor B Nicholson to those in attendance for the meeting on 18 February.

*25 **Matters Arising**

World Environment Day Campaign (min no *21 refers)

Members noted that Jamie Christon, Deputy Managing Director, EDAL had spoken with the Environment Agency locally on the issue of the World Environment Day campaign. EDAL had sent the letter received, out to all Airport Consultative Groups to gauge support for the event. No plans or details of the event had been issued but the Environment Agency had promised to contact Mr Christon when these became available.

Telephone System (min no *22 refers)

Jamie Christon, confirmed that anyone wishing to contact any extension at the Airport could dial that extension when connected to the Airport. This would allow the user to reach the extension immediately without having to listen to the automated message.

*26 **Master Plan for Exeter International Airport**

The Consultative Group noted that there was still no definite launch date for the Airport's Master Plan. A progress report had been given at the special meeting on 18 February 2008. Jamie Christon, confirmed that the Consultative Group would be briefed on the final content ahead of the launch date.

*27 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the report of Jamie Christon, Deputy Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted that there had been a 3% growth in traffic in December. This improvement had largely been driven largely by a 16% growth in International scheduled activity. However, domestic passenger numbers had dipped slightly below the 2006 level. Since the start of the new company financial year on 1 January 2008, passenger numbers and aircraft traffic movement had been lower than last year. In January 2008 passenger numbers were 12% below 2007 and February was 4% lower. This had been due to Flybe withdrawing flights from a number of routes, with poor load factors and also reduced load factors on charter traffic.

Members noted that current bookings for summer charter flights were some ahead of the same time in 2007, although there were still at least 50% of seats to sell. Any economic, national or international event could have an affect on these sales into the early summer period. Mr Christon reported that commercial development work at the Airport continued with both the departure lounge and first floor bar under refurbishment. Both were to be complete and trading for the Easter break. Improvements to the landside catering and retail area were due to follow.

Mr Christon reported that the Airport had entered the new year with considerable local and regional marketing, including the launch of a consumer magazine, "Blue Skies", which had been posted to 36,00 customers. There was also improved newspaper and magazine editorial and advertisements, a new look winter schedule and recently a year's sponsorship of the new Exeter based commercial radio station, Exeter FM, frequency, 107.3FM. A summer schedule and car parking strategy would be launched in the next few weeks. It was hoped that the revised website would go live in the next few weeks.

Members noted that over recent weeks, a number of anti airport expansion groups had been published in the local press. Airport Concern South West and Stop Exeter Expansion had demonstrated in Exeter City Centre. The Airport had responded to comments made on sustainability and airport expansion, backed by local business leaders and pressure groups.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*28 **Complaints Handling**

John Payne, Operations Director, reported that for the period since the last meeting the Airport has received four letters of complaint relating to noise. The first complaint was from Talaton and related to low flying military aircraft. The second complaint was from Pinhoe and related to Royal Mail flights. The third complaint was from Dunkeswell on behalf of Rockbeare Parish Council and related to ground engine running. This was thought to be due to the Royal Mail operating an elektra turbo prop aircraft, which needed more warming up time on the ground. The normal 737 aircraft was unavailable, due to maintenance issues and they could not source another 737 at short notice.

The last complaint was from Broadclyst and related to ground engine running and Royal Mail flights. Responses had been made to all complainants. Councillor Mrs Trigger reported that she had received a number of telephone complaints from parishioners since the new ground

*28 **Complaints Handling (Cont)**

engine running shield had been erected. This had seemed to deflect the noise of ground engine running towards her parish. The Airport management confirmed that they too had been disappointed with the effect the shield had had on dissipating ground engine running noise. They suggested that this be an item for Clive Coleman, Technical Director, to discuss at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the issue of the effect of the new ground engine running shield be discussed at the next meeting of the Consultative Group.

*29 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED

that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 21 May 2008 commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date