

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2011

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| PRESENT: | Councillor Nick Pring (Chairman) | Clyst Honiton Parish Council |
| | Councillor Jack Smith (Vice Chairman) | Farringdon Parish Council |
| | Matt Roach | EDAL |
| | Councillor Noel Finegan | Aylesbeare Parish Council |
| | Sara Randall Johnson | Flybe |
| | Gary Holley | Flybe |
| | Rufus Heald | Exeter Flying Club |
| | Councillor Phil Twiss | East Devon District Council |
| | Councillor Dave Miller | Rockbeare Parish Council |
| | Richard Bartlett | Woodbury Parish Council |
| | Chris Lane | East Devon District Council |
| | Stephen Wiltshire | EDAL |
| | Janet Byers-Coleman | Broadclyst Parish Council |
| | Richard Bristow | Aviation South West |
| APOLOGIES | Councillor Rosie Denham | Exeter City Council |
| | Councillor Alan Moorshead | Broadclyst Parish Council |
| | Jamie Christon | EDAL |
| | Richard Cohen | EDDC |
| | Councillor Don Axford | Bishops Clyst Parish Council |
| | Councillor Ian Holmes | Ottery St Mary Town Council |
| | Roy Stuart | East Devon Business Forum |

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.25 pm.

*1 **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Nick Pring be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

*2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Jack Smith be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

*3 **Appointment of Secretary**

RESOLVED that East Devon District Council be invited to continue to provide the secretary to service the Consultative Group meetings for the year.

*4 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2011 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*5 **Air Traffic Control**

Dave Burrows, Air Traffic Control reported on the operation of Air Traffic Control at Exeter International Airport. Members noted that the service was provided by Tower and Radio controllers licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority. Exeter International Airport had defined airspace of 2.5 miles radius up to 2000ft above the Airport known as an Aerodrome Traffic Zone (ATZ). The Airport had full control of aircraft in this area; in which information was provided to aircraft by radio contact and instructions were issued to assist the safe passage of aircraft in the local area.

There was only one runway in use and for incoming aircraft the prevailing wind was from the west and the normal landing pattern was from the Ottery St Mary direction. Outbound aircraft also had to take off into the wind; take offs were noisier as more power had to be used than to land. The choice of outbound tracks was determined by the need for an aircraft to have an uninterrupted climb to as high a height as was possible. Controlling variables which influenced the job of Air Traffic Control included – aircraft in the vicinity, weather, avoidance areas and Airport capacity.

Dave Burrows then discussed the issue of Controlled Airspace and members noted the complicated and lengthy procedure that would have to be gone through before Controlled Airspace could be introduced at Exeter Airport. This would take at least 2 – 3 years and involve framework briefing, airspace design, consultation with interested parties, the formal proposal submission, the regulatory decision from the CAA, implementation of Controlled Airspace and then an operational review once it had been in operation for a period of time. Members noted that the consultation list when Bristol Airport had decided to introduce controlled Airspace had included 700 consultees.

Richard Bartlett, Woodbury Parish Council, reported that the Airport's noise footprint was random at present as pilots could take a number of different routes to get to the Airport. The introduction of Controlled Airspace would mean that aircraft would take a standard approach. Matt Roach confirmed that the growth of the Airport and the increase in aircraft movements would determine how quickly Controlled Airspace was introduced at Exeter Airport. Nick Pring, Chairman, requested that the subject of Controlled Airspace be an agenda item for the meeting of the Consultative Group at its meeting in July/August 2012.

The Chairman thanked Dave Burrows for his informative presentation on Air Traffic Control at Exeter Airport.

RESOLVED that an update on the future timescale for the possible introduction of Controlled Airspace for Exeter Airport be discussed at the summer 2012 meeting of the Consultative Group.

*7 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Matt Roach, Finance Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted overall performance of the Airport continued to be disappointing against both the budget and last year. UK network and domestic

*7 **Report of the Managing Director (Cont)**

scheduled traffic continued to decline during the period, but charter traffic continued to show improvement on last year, although slightly down on budget. Passenger figures for April had shown an improvement against 2010, but this was due to the figures for April last year being affected by the volcanic ash incident in Iceland, which had grounded many flights. Traffic figures for May and June showed a 5% and 6% respectively drop on 2010.

Matt Roach, Finance Director reported that preparations were being made for an addendum to the Master Plan to highlight proposed north and south side developments. The change to the car park tariff to introduce a £1 short stay charge to cover the costs of operating the facility had now been introduced. Members noted that building work had started on the hotel and there was an anticipated 44 week build period. The Executive Lounge had been reopened and had proved to be popular. Senior Management had started planning for summer 2012, bearing in mind the continued difficult trading conditions. The Airport had been recommended for accreditation for Stage 2 of BSI 14001 (Environment) and BSI 9001 (Quality).

Despite the challenging trading conditions, Matt Roach, Finance Director confirmed that there would always be money available for any safety related issues that were required at the Airport. However, new facilities such as terminal building would only be provided when there was demand from increased passenger numbers for these facilities. The Airport would continue to market itself to potential passengers, particularly from the west of the region to try and increase passenger numbers.

RESOLVED that the report be noted;

*8 **Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director reported that there had been five complaints received since the last meeting. Three had involved military flying; one was a Hercules over Honiton and the other two were regarding an aircraft undertaking training flights. These had been referred to the military. Councillor R Wood had complained about late evening flights and there had been a further complaint from Bishops Court regarding loud sustained engine testing in the evening. A response had been made to all complainants.

Councillor Janet Byers-Coleman representing Broadclyst Parish Council requested that Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director provide her with details of routes and times of flights to and from the Airport, in order that she could keep her residents informed at the regular surgeries she held.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director provide Councillor Janet Byers-Coleman with details of routes and times of flights to and from the Airport.

*9 **Any other business**

Jamie Christon

The Consultative Group wished to express their thanks to Jamie Christon for his contribution to the Group during his time as Managing Director and wished him well in his new career. Matt Roach, Finance Director advised that the recruitment process for a new Managing Director for the Airport would start shortly and the Group would be updated with progress.

*10 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 19 October 2011, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman

Date