

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2007

PRESENT:	Councillor R Stuart (Chairman)	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor N Pring (Vice Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Mr J Spooner	EDAL
	Mr G Holley	Flybe
	Councillor N Finnegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor I Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Mrs M A Trigger	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor B Limb	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor M Arthurs	Broadclyst Parish Council
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Miss S Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Mr M A R Heald	Exeter Flying Club

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.20 pm.

*1 **Election of Chairman**

Members noted that although Roy Stuart was no longer an Ottery St Mary Town Councillor he still represented the East Devon Business Forum and would continue to attend the Consultative Group on this basis.

RESOLVED that Councillor RAR Stuart be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

*2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor N Pring 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 ensuing year.

*4 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 March 2007 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*5 **Noise Sub Group**

The Consultative Group received the minutes of the Noise Sub Group held on Wednesday 10 May 2007.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*6 **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ian Holmes from Ottery St Mary Town Council to his first meeting of the Consultative Group.

*7 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Mr Spooner, Interim Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted that since the last meeting, fewer passengers had been travelling through the Airport. A similar reduction had been experienced by other airports, including Heathrow and it was thought that there were three factors behind this. Firstly the good weather in the UK, secondly the increase in airport departure tax and thirdly the recent environmental articles in the press. Passenger figures for May showed a reduction of 3% on the same month last year and it was acknowledged that it was currently a tough market.

Despite the reduction in passengers, aircraft movements at the Airport were up by 5%, with more smaller and quieter aircraft operating at lower load factors. The number of General aircraft movements was up 13% and commercial aircraft up 10%. To compensate there had been a reduction in the number of military aircraft movements.

Members noted that the Airport web site was in the process of being redesigned and Mr Spooner informed the Consultative Group that he would report back to the next meeting on the results of any redesign work. The first stage of the Airport capacity increases had now been undertaken. Catering was now on the airside which had improved the entrance and security. This had proved commercially successful with the ability to handle more passengers. It was hoped that the viewing facility, which had been lost in the works could be restored as a result of the Masterplan. The number of complaints regarding liquids security had reduced and Mr Spooner reminded members that security at Airports remained at a high level.

It was noted that there was much work still to do on the Masterplan. It was hoped to consult stakeholders on this in the summer months.

The Consultative Group was informed of three significant safety incidents which had occurred since the last meeting. The first was in May concerning a light aircraft which had landed without extending its landing gear. The second was regarding a Hawker Hunter jet which had a tyre blow as it reached the takeoff point. The aircraft had travelled across the grass but had remained upright at all times. The third was in June when a flybe Dash 8 on an Exeter to Amsterdam flight had burst a tyre. It was feared that an engine cell had been damaged an engine cell. The aircraft had landed safely with all emergency services in attendance.

It was noted that the emergency procedures had worked well in all these incidents and found to be satisfactory

Members discussed the impact of the East of Exeter developments on the Airport. This included the proposed Science Park, Cranbrook new community and proposed new road with bridge over it, Sky Park and Inter modal facility. The Chairman questioned whether the Intermodal facility was in the right place to achieve maximum effectiveness and whether in order to achieve this a swap could be made with the proposed Science Park.

RESOLVED

- 1) that the report be noted;
- 2) that the airport and fire staff be commended for the work they had undertaken in respect of three recent safety incidents at the Airport.

*8 **Complaints Handling**

John Spooner, Interim Managing Director, reported that there had been a total of 7 specific noise complaints. Of these specific complaints, 4 related to activities outside the Airports airspace. Of those that took place in the Airports control zone, one was a General Aircraft

*8 **Complaints Handling (Cont)**

movement, one a Royal Mail aircraft complaint and the last a complaint concerning a commercial aircraft.

The Ottery St Mary representative reported that he had received 4 specific noise complaints from his local residents, particularly concerning late night mail flights. It was acknowledged that some residents of Ottery St Mary had problems with late night mail flights, but it was recognised that generally residents in the town were supportive of the Airport and had accepted that there would be a level of aircraft noise at certain times.

The Consultative Group noted that the level of complaints remained very low. The Airport was anxious to keep the number of noise complaints at the current low level through good communication with local residents, parish councils and other organisation.

Some concern was expressed over the level of contribution made by the Noise Sub Group. Those attending meetings were mainly senior management with two persons from outside the Airport regularly attending. It had been specifically introduced to overcome a problem in Clyst Honiton concerning noise sensitive areas and it was anticipated that once this plan had been successfully introduced on the website its work would be over.

RESOLVED that the future of the Noise Sub Group be discussed at the next meeting of the Consultative Group on Wednesday 26 September 2007.

*9 **Any other business**

Tour of Hangars

Members were reminded of Councillor Miss S Randall Johnson's invitation made at the last meeting to the Consultative Group to tour the flybe aircraft hangars and operations. John Spooner also invited members of the Consultative Group to view activities in the Airport's Aircraft Control centre at a date to be arranged.

RESOLVED that John Spooner liaise with Councillor Miss S Randall Johnson concerning arranging the viewings for the Consultative Group.

*10 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 12 September 2007 commencing at 2.15 pm and the next meeting of the Noise Sub Group be held on Wednesday 25 July 2007 commencing at 2.00pm.