

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2009

PRESENT:	Roy Stuart (Chairman)	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor Nick Pring (Vice Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Jamie Christon	EDAL
	John Payne	EDAL
	Councillor Noel Finnegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Chris Martin	Exeter Flying Club
	Councillor Andrew Dinnis	East Devon District Council
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Moira Trigger	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Councillor Bernard Limb	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council
	Councillor Stella Brock	Exeter City Council

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.00 pm.

*1 **Election of Chairman**

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

*2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Nick 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 year.

*4 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 April 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*5 **Matters Arising**

Report of the Managing Director (min no *33 refers)

Members noted that the car parking contract had been successfully transferred at the end of April from NCP to APCOA. The new company intended to replace all software and hardware from the beginning of November and introduce automatic number plate recognition. Access to Car Park 1 would be changed by altering exits, this along with ANR would change access arrangements to the Airport and stop the current system of picking up and drop off of passengers from in front of the main building. This change was designed to improve security and safety of the Airport.

Jamie Christon, Managing Director, reported that 3 new shuttle coaches had been purchased to transport passengers from the car parks to their flights. These coaches were of a size which allowed all Airport staff to drive them.

*5 **Matters Arising** (Cont)

Ground engine running (min no * 36 refers)

Councillor Sara Randall Johnson, Flybe representative reported that the ground engine testing which had taken place at 2.10 am one morning and reported at the last meeting had indeed been due to the plane being needed for services the following day.

*6 **Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that the performance of the Airport continued to suffer due to the unfavourable economic conditions which had mirrored the performance of the aircraft industry and the country as a whole. Passenger numbers had reduced by 11% in April and 17% in May, it was hoped that this decrease had now plateaued and that passenger numbers would remain more constant. The loss of two travel agencies which promoted flights from the Airport had not helped passenger numbers.

However, the Airport had secured Palmailre to operate charter flights from Exeter from November, with flights due over the winter period. This was due to the Airport's good relationship with Bath Travel. There had been additional military flights during April, which had all operated successfully. Corporate aviation flights were also proving to be successful. The emphasis of the Management of Exeter Airport was still on efficiency and restructuring. They would continue to take steps to reduce business costs to help retain profitability. More redundancies had been made, including that of a manager, but no more were being sought over the summer period. It was not expected that an improvement to economic conditions for the Airport would be seen until 2011. Stephen Wiltshire from Blackpool Airport had been appointed as the new Operations Director to replace John Payne and would be in post from 1 September 2009.

Members noted that the EDAL Board would meet in two weeks to discuss the updated Master Plan, which it was hoped would be adopted from the beginning of August. Thomson customer service questionnaires had indicated that the Airport had been voted as best for many aspects of the customer experience. The Airport had also done well in the recent Thomas Cook survey. The Airport management and staff were congratulated on their achievements.

Members noted that the Red Arrows would be visiting Exeter International Airport at the end of July and through August, with 6 or 7 shows taking place in the South West.

RESOLVED that the report be noted;

*7 **Complaints Handling**

John Payne, Operations Director reported that there had been no complaints received since the last meeting. Successful lobbying with the operators of the Royal Mail flights had meant that a 737 had continued to operate from the Airport on mail flights.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*8 **Any other business**

Planning Applications Flybe hotel and academy

Councillor Noel Finnigan from Aylesbeare Parish Council, asked about the current situation with regard to the planning application for both the Flybe hotel and academy. Members noted that both had been granted planning permission by East Devon District Council. Flybe had applied for funding from the Learning Skills Council and Rural Development Agency, but funding from the LSC was still awaited. Access to both buildings would be by the existing road system with no upgrading. However, funding for upgrading Junction 29 of the M5 had been agreed.

*9 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 9 September 2009, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date