

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2010

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| PRESENT: | Roy Stuart (Chairman) | East Devon Business Forum |
| | Rufus Heald | Exeter Flying Club |
| | Clive Coleman | EDAL |
| | Stephen Wiltshire | EDAL |
| | Chris Lane | Democratic Services Officer |
| | Councillor Andrew Dinnis | East Devon District Council |
| | Gary Holley | Flybe |
| | Councillor Alan Morshead | Broadclyst Parish Council |
| | Councillor Don Axford | Bishops Clyst Parish Council |
| | Councillor Stella Brock | Exeter City Council |
| | Councillor Jack Smith | Farringdon Parish Council |
| | Councillor Noel Finegan | Aylesbeare Parish Council |
| | Chris Martin | Exeter Flying Club |
| APOLOGIES: | Bernard Limb | Woodbury Parish Council |
| | Councillor Ian Holmes | Ottery St Mary Town Council |
| | Councillor Sara Randall Johnson | Flybe |
| | Jamie Christon | EDAL |
| | Nick Pring | Clyst Honiton Parish Council |

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.10 pm.

*21 **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Alan Morshead from Broadclyst Parish Council to his first meeting of the Consultative Group.

*22 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 December 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*23 **Matters Arising**

Flybe Hotel and Academy

Clive Coleman, Development Director, EDAL, reported that the land transaction for the Academy had been concluded with Flybe on 21 December and that possession had been taken of the site and started work in the first week on January 2010. It was expected that building work would start in March 2010, with new gas and electricity mains to be provided. In response to a question Clive Coleman confirmed that the gas main could provide a facility to some local properties as well. With regard to the Hotel, it was anticipated that once planning permission had been obtained a developer would be appointed to build the Hotel in the spring. It was confirmed that the access road to both the Academy and Hotel sites would also be improved in due course.

Complaints Handling

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL confirmed that he had spoken to the Hunter Group based at the Airport and asked them to be more considerate in their future flying activities. There had been no noise complaints about their activities since the last meeting.

***24 Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Clive Coleman, Development 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 at the Airport had reduced by 17% overall in 2009. There was a reduction of 6% in November, 7% in December and 14% in January, but this figure was distorted by the bad weather in the month and the Airport being closed for 3 days. It was expected that the February figures would be more positive and the passenger forecast for 2010 was 830,000.

Domestic traffic had been hardest hit, but was now stabilising and Flybe were predicting a small increase in passenger numbers for the summer. Charter traffic was doing better at the Airport with Thomson adding a programme to Tunisia and Turkey from Easter to the end of the year. Executive traffic had also held up well with a commitment given for a new Milan to Exeter route for staff of Augusta Westland.

A Parish Council representative asked whether it would be possible for the Airport to include Parish Councils in the circulation for press releases from the Airport. Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director confirmed that this would be possible and that Stephen Ayres, Communications Manager, EDAL would be requested to ensure they received any future press releases.

Members noted the ongoing works with regard to the reconfiguration of car parking, introduction of ANPR and the change to the entrance and exits to Car Park 1, which should be ready early in April. When these works were completed all visitors would have to go into Car Park 1 to drop off passengers. Clive Coleman Development Director, EDAL, reported that 45 acres of land to the north of the Airport was being fenced off as it was land allocated as Sky Park, under the ownership of Devon County Council. The Airport had renegotiated a series of leases for tenants in premises in the other portion of land allocated as Sky Park.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that Stephen Ayres, Communications Manager, EDAL be requested that Parish Council's receive any future press releases issued by the Airport.

***25 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, reported that there had been no noise complaints received since the last meeting. Members were delighted to hear this news, which was remarkable for an Airport with as many aircraft movements as Exeter.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

***26 Any other business**

Naming of Exeter International Airport

Councillor Andrew Dinnis, East Devon District Council representative requested that, in view of the news regarding the proposed granting of unitary status for Exeter City Council, whether Airport management would give consideration to renaming the Airport, East Devon International Airport. Councillor Stella Brock representing Exeter City Council, confirmed that

*26 **Any other business** (Cont)

Naming of Exeter International Airport

the granting of unitary status for Exeter City Council was not a forgone conclusion and was not unanimously supported amongst members at the City Council.

RESOLVED that this matter be a possible agenda item for a future meeting of the Consultative Group.

*27 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 19 May 2010, in the Conference Room starting at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date