

## EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2010

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Nick Pring (Vice Chairman in the Chair)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Jamie Christon	EDAL
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Chris Lane	Democratic Services Officer
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council
	Councillor Noel Finegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Dave Millar	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor Stella Brock	Exeter City Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Roy Stuart	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor Alan Morshead	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Chris Martin	Exeter Flying Club

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

#### \*28 **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Richard Bartlett from Woodbury Parish Council to his first meeting of the Consultative Group.

#### \*29 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### \*30 **Concerns from Rockbeare Parish Council about what noise is measured and how it is measured**

Consideration was given to the report from Councillor David Millar, Rockbeare Parish Council, which related to the recent successful planning application to extend the runway at its eastern end. This raised the question of what noise data was collected and reported.

Members noted that in the Airport Master Plan (page 60, para 8.82) it stated that "Air noise referred to noise from aircraft that are airborne or on an airport runway during take-off or landing". To a lay person this would appear to cover both air and all ground noise on the runway. It was clear that the taxiing and turning noise levels at Coppice Farm, which was adjacent to Rockbeare Village, were already at 69dB and would continue to be so after the runway extension. It was accepted that 69 dB was the High Annoyance contour level.

Jamie Christon, Managing Director, EDAL, reported that the technical team had responded to the enquiry in the report and that the technical terms in the reply made it difficult for the layperson to understand. He suggested that Clive Coleman, Development Director, EDAL would be available to attend a future meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council to answer any further queries arising and deal with them in a less technical manner. Councillor David Millar, asked a further question concerning whether movements such as taxiing were included in the

**\*30 Concerns from Rockbeare Parish Council about what noise is measured and how it is measured (cont)**

noise contours. Jamie Christon agreed that a representative of Bickerdike Allen, noise consultants, be requested to attend the meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council if this was seen as necessary by EDAL. It was also suggested that Clive Coleman attend the next meeting of the Consultative Group to report on their findings. Jack Smith, Farringdon Parish Council reported that he hoped to revive the Clyst Vale group of parish councils and it may be more appropriate for any report on Airport noise contours to be made to this group.

**RESOLVED** that a full report on the concerns raised by Rockbeare Parish Council about what noise was measured and how it was measured be made by Clive Coleman, Development Director, EDAL and a possibly a representative of Bickerdike Allen, to a future meeting of the Rockbeare Parish Council, with other parish Councils being informed of the date and invited to attend.

**\*31 Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that the performance of the Airport had suffered greatly from the 6 days of airspace closure during April due to volcanic ash clouds, which had severely impacted on domestic, scheduled and charter movements. This impact was also felt in the weeks after closure, especially as a result of sporadic periods of non flying affecting parts of the UK as well as a degree of customer uncertainty as to whether aviation was a reliable method of travel. The impact of airspace closure had been estimated to be 12,500 passengers during the 6 days and load factors in the weeks post closure on domestic routes especially had been some 10-15% lower than anticipated. Jamie Christon reported that he anticipated that the Airport's financial budget for the months February – April 2010 would have been exceeded but for the problems caused by the volcanic ash cloud.

Jamie Christon reported that there was the possibility that volcanic ash may impact on the Airport throughout the rest of the summer. The Airport management was in discussion with the Unions about what to do with staff if this sort of disruption happened again. The concerns over "kick starting" consumer confidence had meant that the Airport had increased the marketing budget.

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 had been completed in early April. It was reported that Thursdays were now the busiest day for the Airport with 900 passengers arriving between 2pm and 6pm. Members of the Management Team had helped deal with these large volumes of passengers by undertaking tasks such as baggage handling, cleaning the aircraft and working on the customers services desk. This "hands on" approach had also helped improve staff morale. Airport income had been helped by a large number than anticipated of military aircraft movements to Afghanistan. Also a new Blue Skies magazine, the production of which had been produced which was entirely paid for by advertising revenue, had been introduced.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*32 Complaints Handling**

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

However, Councillor Jack Smith, Farringdon Parish Council reported that members of Parish Council had been disturbed by a loud engine noise coming from the airport at 10.05pm on Tuesday 11 May 2010. Stephen Wiltshire agreed to investigate the origins of this noise disturbance.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*33 Any other business**

Free car parking in Car Park 1

Councillor Jack Smith, Farringdon Parish Council reported that concern had been expressed that the 10 minutes free parking time in Car Park 1 was too short a time to be given for delivery and collection of passengers. Jamie Christon, Managing Director, EDAL reported that scenarios had been looked at including zero grace time in Car Park 1 and that there were financial considerations to be made over the cost of maintaining this car park. It was noted that the car parking contractor had been asked to take an understanding approach to any car owners collecting passengers who had genuine reasons for taking longer than 10 minutes to collect their passengers.

New starter extension

Councillor Richard Bartlett, Woodbury Parish Council asked a question of the length of the new starter extension at the Airport and would there be a turning circle at the end of it? Jamie Christon, Managing Director reported that it was 180 metres long and there would be a turning circle at the end. It was noted that there was no immediate need to build the new starter extension at the present time, despite planning permission being granted, but the planning application had been submitted in response to possible changes in CAA regulations.

**\*34 Date of the next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 11 August 2010, in the Training Room starting at 2.15 pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....