

## EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2011

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Nick Pring (Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Jamie Christon	EDAL
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Airport User
	Councillor Andrew Dinnis	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Richard Bristowe	Aviation South West
	Shelia Coward	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Alan Morshead	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Alan Sayers	Farringdon Parish Council
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor Greg Sheldon	Exeter City Council
	Councillor Dave Miller	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Roy Stuart	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council

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

#### \*19 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 November 2010, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### \*20 **Discussion of the Airport Car Park Charging Regime** (Min \*14 of 10 November 2011 refers)

Consideration was given to a comparison of short stay car park charges made by various UK airports, including Exeter. This had been prepared in response to a request made at the last meeting for the Airport to undertake further investigation into the new short stay car parking charging regime recently introduced.

Jamie Christon, Managing Director, reported that the comparison produced showed that Exeter was one of the cheaper airports for short stay car park charges. Although the Airport was not looking to increase charges, the comparison had highlighted the possibility of introducing an additional 30 minute charge for short stay car parking. A simulation pick up and drop off exercise had been undertaken and it was anticipated that this would be repeated in the busier summer months. Members noted that the new equipment installed in the car park had proved more reliable than that previously in place. This new equipment, the car park surfacing work that had been undertaken and provision of security staffing, was a considerable cost to the Airport that needed to be paid for. It was noted that the number of complaints regarding the short stay car park had recently reduced.

It was reported that in response to concerns raised by a resident at the last meeting more “no parking” signage has been put up outside the bungalow. A letter had also been written to Devon County Council requesting the highway authority to fill in the unofficial parking bays along the B3184 adjacent to the Airport and pointing out that the Airport were willing to pay for this work. DCC had written back stating that as these parking bays were not part of the official highway they would not undertake this work, even if paid for by a third party.

- \*20 **Discussion of the Airport Car Park Charging Regime** (Min \*14 of 10 November 2011 refers)

Jamie Christon confirmed that he would write to DCC again making a further request. Nick Pring agreed to also take this matter up with DCC as the local parish councillor.

Members of the Consultative Group were requested to give further consideration to the short stay car park comparisons presented at the meeting and provide any comments they had to the Airport Management. The Consultative Group thanked Jamie Christon and his team for the actions they had taken and in producing the car parking price comparison sheet.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

- \*21 **Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that the passenger numbers in October had shown a growth of 1% compared with 2009. This had been mainly due to extremely strong charter growth, whereas domestic and international scheduled passenger numbers continued to be disappointing. November had been disappointing overall with passenger numbers down 3% and the passenger numbers for December had also been down 11%, due in no small part to the very poor weather. Passenger numbers for January were also reported to be down 12%, due to domestic traffic still pulling down strong Charter performance. Other airports, such as Bournemouth, Bristol, Newquay and Plymouth were also suffering and showing reductions in passenger numbers. Jamie Christon reported that he did not anticipate significant passenger growth for the rest of 2011.

The Hotel transaction had been completed on 23 December and it was anticipated that the restaurant and hotel would be completed in December this year. It was noted that the Department of Transport had increased the threat level to SEVERE on 6 January 2011, but this had not so far affected the passenger experience. The departure control system had been replaced in December and the Airport fire alarm and smoke detection system had been replaced in January 2011. It was anticipated that the replacement of the hold baggage security system would be completed later this month. Additional charter services to Malta and Dalaman would be added later in the year. Although there was continuing concern over flights to Tunisia and Egypt, due to the unstable political situation in these countries, this had not yet seemed to adversely affect passenger numbers.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

- \*22 **Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director reported that there had been one complaint received since the last meeting. This had been from a resident of Exeter who had complained about being woken up at 2.12am by a Royal Mail flight over her property. The complainant had been responded to.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*23 Presentation on New Hotel**

Jamie Christon, Managing Director, EDAL gave a presentation on the new Hotel that would be built on land adjacent to the Airport. It would be a four storey building with 120 rooms. There would also be a restaurant, run jointly by Marco Pierre White and Frankie Detorri. The first floor of the hotel would be for the general public, the second floor for the public and also Flybe pilots and the third floor purely for Flybe staff and trainees.

The interiors would be designed around the theme of the Devon landscape and the good things about the locality. There was a 44 week build period and it was hoped that the Hotel would be finished in December; the Consultative Group could have a preview tour before it opened. More information on the Hotel would be provided for the next meeting of the Consultative Group on 11 May. A further extension to the hotel of 40 rooms was also planned, for which the services had already been laid when needed.

Members wished to thank Jamie Christon for his informative and interesting presentation on the new Hotel development

**\*24 Any other business**

Transport Forum

Councillor Nick Pring asked when the next meeting of the Transport Forum would be held. Jamie Christon, Managing Director, reported that a meeting would be held with Devon County Council in March to discuss the tendering process for the bus route to Exeter International Airport. It was considered that a further meeting of the Transport Forum would be arranged after this process had been agreed.

**\*25 Date of the next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 11 May 2011, commencing at 2.15 pm.

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