

## 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
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	Richard Bristowe	Aviation South West
	Noel Finnigan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Alan Morshead	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council
	Sara Randall Johnson	Flybe
	Councillor Dave Miller	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Roy Stuart	East Devon Business Forum
	Richard Bartlett	Woodbury Parish Council

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

#### \*26 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 February 2011, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### \*27 **Report of the Managing Director**

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

The Consultative Group noted that overall performance was disappointing against both the budget and last year. UK network and domestic scheduled traffic continued to decline during the period but charter traffic continued to show considerable improvement on last year and was on par with budget. Traffic numbers were 14% below last year and 16% below budget. Total movements dipped below last year but load factors on all routes were below anticipated levels. The removal of the Flybe route to Hanover had been compensated with the addition to the schedule of a flight to Dusseldorf. The summer season had begun with good load factors on charter flights which it was hoped would be continued throughout the season.

Jamie Christon, Managing Director EDAL reported that further negotiations were being held with Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service regarding the joint fire training ground on the north side and negotiations were advanced with a second major north side tenant. The Airport had reached accreditation in BSI 18001 (Occupational, Health and Safety). Stage 1 assessments were also undertaken in 9001 (Quality) 14001 (Environment) with recommendation to stage 2 being achieved. The stage 2 assessments for these two standards were planned for July.

It was noted that there would be a planned reception next week for MPs/MEPs and senior local authority leaders at the Airport who would then attend Devon County Show. Thomson had confirmed the Egypt route would be year round from the summer. Discussions were being held with various organisations regarding opportunities around the proposed closure of Plymouth Airport. Although it was noted that there were only 100 passengers per day that used this Airport equivalent to 30,000 passengers per year so opportunities for growth were limited. The summer season had started with good load factors and there had been an increase in employment numbers to 292 FTE.

**\*27 Report of the Managing Director (Cont)**

Work on building the Hotel would start on 25 May with an anticipated 44 week build period. The interiors would be designed around the theme of the Devon landscape and local features. Councillor Jack Smith raised the issue of possibly including pictures from local members of the Royal Society of Artists in the building. Sara Randall Johnson, Flybe, reported that the business had ordered 140 of the new 175 jet planes that were due to be delivered from June. The price of fuel had an impact on the business which was still profitable, but not as profitable as they would have liked. The Consultative Group were advised that the price of Flybe shares had recently reduced on the Stock Exchange.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*28 Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, reported that there had been three complaints received since the last meeting. Two had concerned military flights, with one from a resident of Whitestone and the other from Honiton. Responses had been made to both complaints. The third complaint had been from Sidbury and concerned a Royal Mail aircraft that had gone 'into the hole' due to fog at the Airport and had subsequently had to be diverted. Mr Donaldson the resident of St Leonards, Exeter, had also been in contact again and Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director had visited his house to explain Airport operations to him. Members were delighted with the low level of complaints received, particularly during the recent good weather and the appreciated level of attention senior management at the Airport gave each complaint.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**\*29 Any other business**

Air Traffic Control

Richard Bartlett reported that he had visited the Air Traffic Control at the Airport on behalf of Woodbury Parish Council. Members discussed the issue of Controlled Airspace around the Airport and it was noted that at present only aircraft within a radius of 2 ½ nautical miles were controlled by Exeter Airport Air Traffic Control. However, Jamie Christon, Managing Director EDAL reported that introducing Controlled Airspace around the Airport would take many years and would involve a submission to the CAA. A report on Air Traffic Control would be made at the next meeting of the Consultative Group on 27 July 2011.

Solar Development

Councillor Alan Morshead, Broadclyst Parish Council, advised that Solar Development had indicated that they were considering making a planning application for a substantial development of solar panels on farm buildings 3 miles from the Airport to be called Solar Power Station, Broadclyst. The Airport had raised a preliminary objection to this proposed development which had the potential to create glare for pilots, although a planning application had not yet been forthcoming.

Stephen Wiltshire had advised that there was limited CAA guidance on this type of development and that when the full planning application had been received the Airport would give it detailed consideration. Members noted that Crealy Park had been given planning permission for a smaller set of solar panels.

\*30 **Date of the next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 27 July 2011, commencing at 2.15 pm.

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