

EXETER AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT AIRPORT HOUSE BOARD ROOM, EXETER AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT:	Richard Bartlett (Chairman)	Woodbury Parish Council
	Chris Lane	EDDC
	John Smith	EDDC
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Sam Thomas	EDDC
	Lynne Askew	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Simon McNamara	Flybe
	Ian Payne	DAAT
	Ray Bloxham	Cranbrook Town Council
	Jeremy Wollen	Rockbeare Parish Council

APOLOGIES	Pete Edwards	Exeter City Council
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Phil Twiss	EDDC
	Andy Wood	EEDGP
	Denise Dyer	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Maureen Gori-De-Murden	Exeter City Council
	Josefina Gori	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Henry Gent	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Alice Gent	Clyst Honiton Parish Council

The meeting started at 3.15 pm and ended at 4.15 pm.

***40 Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting of the Consultative Committee and particularly welcomed Simon McNamara, Director of Communications at Flybe to his first Consultative Committee. Richard Bartlett reported on his recent visit to St Helena airport on behalf of TUI, to investigate problems with this recently built £250M airport. He would provide a more detailed report on this visit at a future meeting.

***41 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 December 2017, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***42 Matters Arising**

Substitute EDDC Councillor Representative

Richard Bartlett, Chairman reported that Cllr Phil Twiss, EDDC representative, had been unable to attend the last two meetings of the Committee. He had requested that consideration be given to allowing a substitute member to be appointed to represent the District Council when he was unavailable.

RESOLVED: that a substitute EDDC representative be requested and be the Ward Member for the ward in which the Airport resides, currently Christopher Pepper or Eleanor Rylance.

*43 **Noise report for the Airport**

John Smith, Environmental Health Officer, reported that there was no further noise issues to update the Committee on at present. Sam Thomas, EDDC Planning, asked when new noise contours for the Airport would be available. Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL agreed to look into this.

*44 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the report of Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Committee noted that passenger numbers for November 2017 were 58,960 which was 13% up on 2016, and 16% up on budget. December passenger numbers were 62,289, 19% up on the figures in the same month in 2016 and 23% up on budget. January was 14% up on 2017 and 6% up against budget. The trend to increase numbers on domestic passenger flights had continued, but there was also increases in numbers on chartered flights. The Airport was on course to go above 900,000 passengers for the first time since 2009, an increase of 50,000 passengers on 2016; this was the fifth consecutive year of passenger growth. It was anticipated that 2018 would be a year of consolidation with more modest increases in passenger numbers.

Matt Roach, Managing Director EDAL, reported that the runway resurfacing project was progressing well, with 95% of it finished and was due for completion in March. Car Park 4 should be returned to use after completion of the works, following some reinstatement works. It was noted that there had been a couple of complaints from local residents about the lights from the works at night.

Members noted that Long Lane was a poor standard minor road with a lack of traffic enforcement along it, with cars parking on laybys. It provided access to the Flybe Academy and Hampton-by-Hilton hotel. There had been some progress made on the long term road widening scheme with EDDC and DCC and in the meantime it was anticipated that some short term improvements would be made to Long Lane.

The Airport was looking to hold an event to help celebrate the RAF Centenary, over the summer months. The Summer Schedule was rapidly approaching and was looking to be very similar to previous years. In response to a question the Managing Director confirmed that there were no new scheduled routes planned.

RESOLVED that the report be noted;

*45 **Report from Flybe representative**

Simon McNamara, Director of Communications, provided the following update:

- The aircraft fleet was reducing, with 4 Q400's going off lease, to help produce a demand led business;
- Recent performance had improved with an 8.5% increase in passenger numbers and a 13% increase in revenue per seat. Load capacity was at 75.8%;
- Costs continued to be a challenge but there was a long term plan to return the company to profitability;
- Forward sales of seats were looking encouraging;

- The focus was on making Flybe a Regional Airline and not competing with budget airlines, such as Easyjet;
- There was no planned reduction in staff, but in other costs to the business;
- Flybe was looking to simplify its processes and was introducing a new more customer friendly on line seat purchase system;
- Focus would be on the UK, but with a number of foreign destinations;

Sam Thomas, EDDC Planning, reported that signage and planting on the roundabout approaching the Airport needed to be greatly improved. However, funding needed to be found for these improvements. Members noted that signage promoting the Enterprise Zone was in the process of being installed, with acknowledgement of the Airport and Flybe, but this would only be for a temporary period.

Simon McNamara was thanked for his report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*46 **Complaints Handling**

John Smith, EDDC Environmental Health, reported on complaints he had received from the parish of Rockbeare, regarding ground engine testing. He agreed to send further details to Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL.

*47 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the ordinary meetings of the Consultative Committee in 2018 be held on Wednesdays, 9 May (Flybe Academy), 11 July, 19 September and 5 December.

Chairman Date