

**GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**187th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016,**  
**Meeting Room 1, GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT**

**Present**

George Smith	Co-opted Member (Vice Chair)
James Riach	Prestwick South Community Council (Treasurer)
Councillor Jim McClung	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Richard Searle	Passenger Representative

**In Attendance**

Ron Smith	CEO GPA
Richard Jenner	Interim CEO GPA
Nigel Wallace	Secretary to GPACC

**Apologies**

Gavin Money	Chair
Councillor Robert McDill	East Ayrshire Council
Councillor Hugh Hunter	South Ayrshire Council
Councillor Irene Oldfather	North Ayrshire Council
Councillor Bill Grant	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Annique Armstrong	Visit Scotland
Len Houston	Royal Aeronautical Society
William McAlpine	Passenger Representative
Calum McPhail	South Ayrshire Council
Steven Herriot	SW Trans/Dumfries & Galloway Council
Councillor Philip Saxton	South Ayrshire Council
Inspector Paul Seditas	Strathclyde Police
Norman Geddes	Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Sharon Hodgson	East Ayrshire Council
Andrew McNair	North Ayrshire Council

**1. Welcome**

The Vice Chair (VC) welcomed those in attendance to the 187th Quarterly meeting of the Glasgow Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee. The VC introduced and welcomed Ron Smith, GPA's new Chief Executive Officer to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

The apologies received were noted.

**3. Minutes of the 186th Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

**4. Matters Arising**

**GPACC Website:** alterations to the website as agreed have now been sent to UKACCs for updating. However it is understood that Stuart Innes who has managed the website for UKACCs has recently resigned. In Stewart's absence it is unclear how the GPACC website, which has been hosted through the UKACCs website for the past six years, will be updated going forward. If UKACCs are unable to continue providing this service

GPACC may have to seek an alternative arrangement. Possible options need to be discussed at a future meeting.

**Invitation to Minister for Transport and the Islands:** following the election and new ministerial appointments the Secretary has written to Humza Yussef inviting him to attend the September meeting of GPACC.

**Drones:** Drone incidents near airports continue to be reported in the press and the issue of safety remains a matter of concern to the Committee. The Chairman asked for an update from DfT.

**Lasers:** Increasing reports of misuse of lasers in relation to aircraft operations, together with increasing access to more powerful lasers and their availability through the internet are matters of concern to GPACC. The latest figures show that in the first 9 months of 2015 there were 26 incidents at Edinburgh and 24 at Glasgow. This problem is not confined to larger airports.

**Disruptive Passengers:** the Committee will recall previous discussions on this issue and that the matter was first raised by GPACC at the 2015 UKACCs Annual Conference. Since then there have been a greater number of reported incidents and increasing awareness of the problem including flight diversions and delays. CAA figures do not reflect the scale of the problem as many airlines don't report all incidents. The legal framework under the Tokyo Convention of 1963 already exists to deal with the problem. However there is a strong case for increasing the awareness of passengers that it is an offence, punishable by fines or imprisonment, to be abusive, threatening, insulting or disorderly on an aircraft and that it is illegal to board an aircraft drunk or to be drunk on an aircraft. IATA issued guidance in 2016 including sample passenger warnings and awareness leaflets. Glasgow and Manchester are trialling sale of duty free alcohol in sealed bags. Edinburgh have displayed clear warning signs and have a partnership with police to be more visible where alcohol is consumed.

## **5.Chief Executive's Report**

Richard Jenner, the outgoing interim CEO, and Ron Smith, CEO, updated the Committee as follows:

**Key Appointments** – A full new executive team are now in place:

New CEO – Ron Smith

Finance Director and Commercial Property – Derek Banks

Business Development Manager – Mike Stewart

Operations Manager – Jules Mattiani

Human Resources – Sonia Rafferty

**Business Strategy** - Business Development is the major priority for GPA. Passenger traffic is only one element. Many strands to GPA's business  
Mike Stewart is attending a Route Development Conference. Development of new London Routes are an ongoing priority  
Renegotiate deal with Ryanair

New emphasis on MRO – 747 hangar is under offer for August 2016 – currently it is the only vacant 747 hangar in the UK. The possibility exists of building a new hangar.

Regular quarterly military conferences.

FBO – joint Warrior exercise to be held in Autumn 2016. Bid ongoing to supply US Air Force. A big increase in traffic is expected for the Open Golf in July. Considerable business developing in connection with Dumfries House and Turnberry

Property Review – there is a need for a whole estate review including:

- Terminal review
- Revamp of all retail activities
- GANNET future
- Station improvement – short term temporary facelift including sky bridge for Open at Troon. Options review for the long term
- Fuel Tanks – old tanks will be removed in autumn 2016. Four tanks will be retained and one decommissioned.

Looking at car parking and a new car park charging system to improve passenger experience and raise revenue. The use of the bus shuttle to remote car parks has been stopped. Car Hire is currently occupying a key location and needs to be relocated,

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### **Activity**

Ryanair – capacity for summer 2016 has increased.

Working with Glasgow Hydro on developing freight business in connection with events

Cargolux/Air France continuing to develop relationships – extra flight from New York.

Postal Services discussions ongoing

### **Windfarms & Radar Solution**

The windfarm tolerant radar solution is currently being implemented. The new system will be operational by April 2017

### **6. Spaceport Bid**

Work is continuing on the Spaceport.

It is now clear that it will be a “licensing process” rather than a “bid” process. This has the advantage that it avoids the issues around a political/Government choice.

The criteria are however still not clear. Technical Specifications are still being drawn up by the UK Government. DfT will agree conditions with CAA acting as the agents. It is thought that FAA rules will be a good guide.

GPA are proceeding and gearing up with partners on the assumption that GPA will be the preferred location. MOUs are being developed with aerospace companies. Size of runways is a key asset for GPA.

Although there are undoubted benefits to the wider economy from Spaceport, the key question for GPA is how will it make money from operating a Spaceport. GPA need to develop a Communication Strategy for Spaceport. Contacts with USA Spaceport at Midland in Texas are being developed.

2020 is the expected date for operations.

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### **7. AOCB**

**Airshow 2016** – GPA will support the Airshow as usual. No Sunday event is planned this year as GPA lost money on it previously. Instead a week long event for secondary schoolchildren will be held aimed at stimulating interest in “aerospace”.

A Trade Conference focussed on Spaceport is to be held in conjunction with NATS.

**GPACC Representation:** - The VC raised the need for attendance from Councillors and Officers. GPACC has an important role to play between the airport and local communities and stakeholders and it is vital that there is good involvement at this critical period of GPA's development. Councillors and officers, in particular, needed to become more involved and attendance at meetings was an important part of this. The meeting asked the Secretary to write to Councillors stressing the importance of their regular involvement and attendance at meetings.

#### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

#### **9. Familiarisation Tour**

After the meeting members were taken on a tour of GPA's Fire Station facilities. A meeting was held with Watch Commander with a tour of the Control Room and Fire Appliances. This was followed by a slide show/video and question and answer session. The Members expressed their thanks to Officer Andrew McCrundle and other staff for a very informative session.

Nigel Wallace, Secretary, GPACC

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Past minutes: <http://www.ukaccs.info/prestwick/minutes.htm>