

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
188th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 9th September 2016,
Meeting Room 1, GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT

Present

Gavin Money	Chair
George Smith	Co-opted Member (Vice Chair)
James Riach	Prestwick South Community Council (Treasurer)
Councillor Hugh Hunter	South Ayrshire Council
Councillor Robert McDill	East Ayrshire Council
William McAlpine	Passenger Representative
Richard Searle	Passenger Representative

In Attendance

Derek Banks	Finance/Commercial Director GPA
Nigel Wallace	Secretary to GPACC

Apologies

Ron Smith	CEO GPA
Councillor Jim McClung	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Councillor Irene Oldfather	North Ayrshire Council
Councillor Bill Grant	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Annique Armstrong	Visit Scotland
Len Houston	Royal Aeronautical Society
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 188th Quarterly meeting of Glasgow Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee and gave a special welcome to Gavin Money, the new Chair of GPACC and Derek Banks, Finance & Commercial Director of GPA. The VC then handed the meeting to Gavin Money.

2. Apologies

The apologies received were noted.

3. Minutes of the 187th Meeting held on 10th June 2016

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

4. Matters Arising

Attendance: attendance at GPACC was discussed. GPACC has an important role to play as a “sounding board” 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. It was

noted that a number of members had not attended recently. It was agreed that central to the Committee fulfilling its role and being representative of GPA's stakeholders it is essential that existing members regularly attend meetings. It is also necessary for the membership to be broadly representative of GPA's stakeholders. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

The Secretary was asked to compile Members' individual attendance summaries for the last two years for consideration.

GPACC Website: Current arrangements for the GPACC website, which has been hosted through the UKACCs website for the past six years, have now come to an end. GPACC now needs to seek an alternative arrangement. Possible options were discussed and GPACC's preferred option of GPA hosting the website would be investigated by Derek Banks and reported back.

Invitation to Minister for Transport and the Islands: the invitation to Humza Yussef to attend the September meeting of GPACC had been passed to Keith Brown as the Minister responsible. The Secretary had been informed that Keith Brown was unable to attend on the date proposed.

Drones: Although GPA has had near misses from Drone operations incidents near airports continue to be reported in the press and the issue of safety remains a matter of concern to the Committee. The DfT's latest position is that legislation to control the operation of drones is being brought forward.

5. Chief Executive's Report

Derek Banks, Director of Finance and Commercial Property, standing in for Ron Smith, CEO, updated the Committee as follows:

Key Appointments – as reported previously a full new executive team are now in place. In addition Richard Jenner is taking the lead on Spaceport.

Business Strategy – Key focus on sales and revenue growth. Three new appointments to deal with:- Passengers; Freight and Military.

GPA costs are currently £16m to £17m annually and there is a £5m annual loss. Over the next 3-5 years need to get to 1.5 million passengers for sustainability.

Talking to a number of airlines to re-establish a London service within the next 2 years.

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Activity

Ryanair – capacity for summer 2017 has increased by 5 extra flights on existing routes. One new route has been added.

Load factors remain high but yields need to increase

Currently expecting total passenger outturn for financial year ending 2017 to be ahead of budget by around 6.5%.

The British Open Golf at Troon delivered around 200 extra flights.

Windfarms & Radar Solution

The first phase of the windfarm tolerant radar solution will be implemented next month. It is still expected that the new system will be operational by April 2017

Spaceport

Work is continuing on Spaceport.

The proposed “licensing process” rather than a “Bid” process is likely to be favourable to GPA. Licencing also has the advantage that it avoids issues around a political/Government choice.

As reported to previous meetings the criteria are still not finalised. Technical Specifications are being drawn up by the UK Government. DfT will agree conditions with CAA acting as the agents. It is thought that FAA rules are a good guide to the eventual criteria. GPA already meet 85% of these criteria.

GPA are currently in discussions with the CAA

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.

Contacts with USA Spaceport at Midland in Texas and other planned US Spaceports are being developed.

2020 is the expected date for operations.

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.

Airshow

A successful event, with the Typhoon the star of the show. This year GPA was only involved in take-offs and landing. Over 80,000 people attended the event. It was thought the format should be reviewed for future air-shows. It was suggested that the North side car-park could be utilised in future to allow people to get a better view of aircraft landing and taking off.

Other

Consultants are to report on options for the GPA Station. Options will be provided for both facelift and new build.

A new tenant will take occupancy of the 747 Hangar by January 2017

A new barrier system will be provided for the car park in front of the Terminal to make access as easy as possible

Discussion

6. UKACCs Annual Liaison Meeting

The Secretary gave a brief verbal report of the key items of interest discussed at the 2016 UKACCs Annual Liaison Meeting held in Belfast:

- CAA Report on PRMs
- Lasers and Drones
- Surface Access
- Protecting Regional access to London airports

The 2017 meeting will be hosted by Glasgow Airport.

7. GPACC Website

This item was discussed previously under Item 4. **Matters Arising**

8. AOCB

Review of GPACC's Roles and Purpose: The Chairman expressed his wish to take the opportunity of his appointment to summarise some initial thoughts:

Firstly he felt the Committee appeared to have two roles:

- supporting the work of GPA in terms of its strategic objectives
- acting as "Critical Friend"

He proposed that a review of the purpose and role of GPACC with a view to a degree of refocusing may be appropriate. While recognising the need for GPACC to remain independent of the airport and to fulfil its statutory role under DfT Guidance, he suggested a small working group be established to look at the possibility and desirability of aligning the priorities of GPACC and GPA.

As a first step to help inform the process he proposed to meet with Ron Smith prior to the December meeting.

Passengers with Disabilities: there followed a general discussion about stakeholder representation and representation for PRMs and people with other "hidden" disabilities such as autism, dementia and deafness, in particular. It was agreed that it would be helpful if an appropriate person to speak to that agenda could be identified with a view to becoming a member of GPACC. Councillors McDill and Hunter undertook to identify an appropriate person from a Disability Forum.

Noise Complaint: the Secretary reported that a member of the public had raised a noise complaint relating to late night and early morning flights. Although the matter had been raised already with GPA and South Ayrshire Council the complaint had been forwarded to the Airport. The matter was noted and drawn to GPA's attention once again.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee is Friday 9th December 2016.

Nigel Wallace, Secretary, GPACC

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