

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
214th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 2nd June 2023,

Present

Richard Searle	Chair
Bob Smith	Vice-Chair (Co-opted)
James Riach	Treasurer (Prestwick Community Council)
George Smith	Co-opted Member
Jim McCall	Co-opted Member (Cargo)
William McAlpine	Passenger Representative
Cllr Tony Gurney	North Ayrshire Council
Councillor Duncan Townson	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
William Brown	Monkton Community Council

In Attendance

Juan Merrill	CFO, GPA
Nigel Wallace	Secretary to GPACC

Apologies

Cllr John McGhee	East Ayrshire Council
Wilson Barrie	Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Bob Logan	General Aviation/Royal Aeronautical Society
Ian Masterton	North Air
Councillor Andrew Giusti	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Jim Miller	North Ayrshire Council
Gordon Smith	Visit Scotland

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present to the 214th Quarterly meeting of Glasgow Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee. In particular, the Chair welcomed new member Councillor Tony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council and thanked Juan Merrill, Finance Director for attending on behalf of GPA.

2. Apologies

The apologies received were noted.

3. Minutes of the 213th Meeting held on 10th March 2023

The minutes from the last meeting, with an amendment to change the name of the sub-group from AGD Task and Finish sub-Group to AGD Task sub-Group, were approved as read.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chief Executive's Report

The Finance Director (JM) on behalf of GPA updated the Committee on the progress the airport was making.

- GPA activity continues to be strong
- Business Development has seen GPA staff involved in visit [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- New [REDACTED] upgrade at GPA has been rolled out
- NATO's Air Defender Exercise has generated additional activity.
- GPA is pushing forward with a Spaceport Licence from the CAA. The demise of Virgin Orbit has re-energised the process.
- Marseilles and Pisa routes are performing well.
- [REDACTED]
- MRO's are experiencing significant staff vacancies – need to increase local training and apprenticeships for Aircraft Engineers and Technicians.

Discussion. - The positive news on GPA's progress from the CFOs report was noted and welcomed. Members remain concerned regarding skill shortages and apprenticeships in the aerospace sector.

6. Ayrshire Growth Deal

Members will recall that at the March Meeting of GPACC, following concerns raised regarding progress with the AGD, a task group, comprising the Chair, Vice Chair and Bob Logan had been established by GPACC with a remit to meet with Senior Officers of SAC to ascertain the current state of play with the Ayrshire Growth Deal. SAC had requested that GPACC submit all questions to Mike Newall in advance. Following a Teams Meeting between The Task Group and officers of SAC on the 26th April a Minute of the Meeting had been circulated immediately to members of GPACC for information. The Vice Chair then presented a verbal account of the meeting on behalf of the Task Group. At the meeting the Task Group had expressed GPACC's concern at the slippage in timescales, the adverse knock-on effects on costs and resulting impacts of funding shortfalls on the scale and scope of projects. However, while the news of the AGD's reprofiling of projects was disappointing, it was felt that the meeting had been useful and that in order for the GPACC to keep up to date with those AGD projects relating to GPA, it was hoped that similar meetings with SAC Officers, directly involved, could be held in the future.

7. GPACC Membership

The Chair informed the meeting that SAC have given their intention to change their officer membership of GPACC, with Mike Newall and Louise Reid standing down and to be replaced by George Hunter, Assistant Director Communities. Mick O'Connor, the representative for Spaceport, has recently become an employee of South Ayrshire Council and will no longer be a member of GPACC.

John McGhee had suggested that GPACC may wish to consider inviting a representative from Ayrshire College onto the Committee. Jim Riach suggested that an invitation to

Ayrshire College to come to a future meeting of GPACC to talk about the role of the College in facilitating apprenticeships in aerospace would be a useful first step. With a view to refreshing GPACC membership it being broadly representative of stakeholders of GPA, the Chair asked Members to give some thought and make suggestions regarding possible new members of GPACC.

8. AOCB

Although it had not been possible to organise a tour for GPACC Members for the meeting, the Chair reiterated the value of past familiarisation tours of the Airport, particularly for new Members. JM explained that a tour with a focus on GPA's Strategy would take at least 90 minutes. This would be rather long to incorporate into a normal GPACC meeting but could replace a Meeting or be scheduled for a separate day. JM undertook to investigate and report back at the September Meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee is Friday, 1st September at 2.00 pm.

9. Decisions/Actions

- **JM to investigate a familiarisation tour of GPA for Members and report to the September Meeting.**
- **All Members to give consideration to potential additions to GPACC Membership.**

Nigel Wallace, Secretary, GPACC
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