

**GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**213th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023,**

**Present**

Richard Searle	Chair
Bob Smith	Vice Chair (Co-opted)
James Riach	Treasurer (Prestwick Community Council)
Bob Logan	General Aviation/Royal Aeronautical Society
George Smith	Co-opted Member
Cllr John McGhee	East Ayrshire Council
Jim McCall	Co-opted Member (Cargo)
William McAlpine	Passenger Representative
Councillor Duncan Townson	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
William Brown	Monkton Community Council
Wilson Barrie	Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**In Attendance**

Juan Merrill	CFO, GPA
Nigel Wallace	Secretary to GPACC

**Apologies**

Ian Masterton	North Air
Councillor Andrew Giusti	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Mick O'Connor	Spaceport
Jim Miller	North Ayrshire Council
Mike Newall	South Ayrshire Council
Gordon Smith	Visit Scotland
Cllr Tony Gurney	North Ayrshire Council

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those present to the 213<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting of Glasgow Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee. In particular, the Chair welcomed new members Wilson Barrie, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and William Brown, Monkton Community Council and thanked Juan Merrill, Finance Director for attending on behalf of GPA.

**2. Apologies**

The apologies received were noted.

**3. Minutes of the 212th Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The minutes from the last meeting 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 continues to be busy
- Military traffic is steady
- Cargo generally is experiencing some market problems with slow economic growth; Russian freighters unable to fly; China relatively slow with Covid and issues with sea-freight causing supply chain disruptions. However there remain real opportunities for GPA in specific cargo sectors and with GPA offering a faster service/route for freight than Heathrow, business is starting to build.
- Progress with Spaceport was outlined. GPA continue to press on with licensing from CAA. Progress on Spaceport through partnership of UK and Scottish Governments, the 3 Ayrshire Local Authorities together with [REDACTED] will move on from the Outline Business Case to the Final Business Case. [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] There are ongoing challenges with land and buildings.
- [REDACTED] signed a financing deal in December to build a satellite manufacturing, engineering and operations facility at Prestwick International Aerospace Park. The project will be part funded through the Ayrshire Growth Deal and is expected to create a significant number of high skilled, technical engineering jobs both locally and in wider supply chains.
- Passenger traffic is increasing. Additional summer services on the Faro route. Two new routes have been added to Marseilles and Pisa opening new markets in France and Italy. [REDACTED]
- It has been announced that Boeing Dreamliner 787's, currently stored at GPA, will begin aircraft disassembly to serve the market for spare parts. [REDACTED]
- MRO's are experiencing significant staff vacancies – need to increase local training and apprenticeships for Aircraft Engineers and Technicians.
- [REDACTED] It is hoped that this will be trialled this year. There will be a need for a CAA licence.
- Project Power is making progress, replacing vehicles with EVs and gas.
- Visits – GPA have hosted a number of visits by MPs and MSPs.

Discussion. - The positive news on GPA's progress from the CFOs report was noted and welcomed. Members, however, were particularly concerned regarding skill shortages and offered a number of suggestions, including:

- coordinating between GPA, Employers (Storm; GE ; Spirit and Ryanair), Local Authorities Education Departments and Skills Scotland to inform and encourage children and parents regarding the opportunities available in the aerospace sector.
- improving public transport links to GPA from outlying areas of Ayrshire.
- addressing the issue through the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) strategy operated by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.
- reaching out beyond Ayrshire to Dumfries and Galloway and West Central Scotland.

## **6. Ayrshire Growth Deal**

A Briefing note from Mike Newall on progress with the Ayrshire Growth Deal had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Members discussed the report in detail section by section.



In addition the timing appears to be unfortunate because this news comes at a time when there appears to be an opportunity with the recent failure of the Virgin Orbit launch at Newquay.

It was agreed that, in the first instance, GPACC raise its concerns directly with Mike Newall and seek a meeting at the earliest opportunity to explore the issues raised in his note. A small task and finish sub-group, comprising Richard Searle; Bob Smith and Bob Logan will liaise with Mike Newall, seek clarification of the issues raised and report back to GPACC as a matter of urgency.

## **7. Financial Statement**

The Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement for 2022 was circulated to Members for consideration. The statement was approved unanimously. It was agreed that Bob Logan be added as a cheque signatory.

## **8. AOCB**

The Chair identified the value of past familiarisation tours of the Airport for Members, particularly new Members. JM undertook to organise something for the June Meeting.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee is Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 2.00 pm.

## **9. Decisions/Actions**

- **Wilson Barrie to raise the issue of Aerospace skill shortages with the DYW Steering Group.**
- **Bob Logan to be a cheque signatory for GPACC.**
- **GPACC agreed to set up a task and finish group comprising BS; BL; and RS to seek clarification from Ayrshire Council on issues of relevance to GPA raised concerning progress with the AGD.**
- **JM to organise a familiarisation tour of GPA for Members**