

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

219th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 6th September 2024.

Present

Bob Smith Chair.

Bob Logan Secretary/General Aviation.

Jim McCall Treasurer/Co-opted Cargo.

James Riach Prestwick Community Council.

Richard Searle Co-opted Passenger Representative.

Harry Middleditch Monkton Community Council.

George Smith Co-opted.

Ian Masterton North Air.

Wilson Barrie University West of Scotland.

In Attendance

Juan Merrill CFO, GPA.

Apologies

Nigel Wallace. Co-opted.

John McGhee East Ayrshire Council.

William McAlpine Co-opted Passenger Representative.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present.

2. Apologies

There were three apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the 218th Meeting held on 7th June 2024.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as read with the following amendments-

June was the 218th meeting and not 219th.

The date of the next meeting was 6th September and not the 6th December.

4. Matters arising not elsewhere covered in the agenda.

After discussion, it was agreed that going that forward, the meetings would be recorded in order to provide a full accurate account of the meeting. Once the minutes had been typed up and approved, the recording would be deleted.

The chairman welcomed new member Wilson Barrie, who will be representing the University West of Scotland.

JMcC stated he had contacted the 4 councils (North, East and South Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway) to request payment of subscriptions, however to date, none of the councils have replied.

5. Correspondence

BL informed the meeting there had been numerous contacts made through the Glasgow Prestwick GPACC web page over the previous 3 months. These included

Noise complaint – Forwarded to airport.

Request to fly drone within the zone – Forwarded to Air Traffic Control.

Request for luggage compensation – Advise given to sender.

Request from a Nursery school for a visit – Forwarded to airport.

Scottish power grid proposal meeting – Sent to CEO.

BL read out an e-mail from a headteacher seeking work experience opportunities for a vulnerable child at his school who had a keen interest in aviation and engineering.

JM asked for the details to be forwarded to him and he would take the request forward.

6. Chief Executives report

JM stated that all 10 destinations on the Ryanair route network this summer were performing well with extremely high load numbers. A plan is being put in place by

the airports food and beverage provider to update the facilities both airside and landside. This will include the redevelopment of an existing property landside into a coffee bar.

The new security equipment project will commence in November and should take approximately one month to complete. This will include new scanners, and an automated tray return system.

In relation to cargo **JM** stated that the airport recently attended the Air China Cargo trade event in Shanghai to launch the airports partnership with Royal Mail in relation to encouraging Chinese e-commerce to utilise the airport when shipping to the UK. The response at the trade show from potential clients was extremely positive. To further drive this opportunity, the airport has recruited a Chinese sales director, with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the air cargo business. **WB** stated that in relation to e-commerce he had a few contacts from his time working in China and would link in with **JM** re this.

JM stated that despite a national shortage of Air Traffic Controllers, the airport has recruited several new controllers.

There were over 80 aircraft handled in relation to the recent Open golf tournament at Royal Troon, which thankfully passed without any unwanted attention from oil protest groups.

The airport continues to invest in new cargo loading equipment with a new loader and dollies having been delivered recently to augment those already received. As at all airports, runway maintenance continues with areas around Juliet and Kilo earmarked for some work.

ATC was recently audited by the CAA with good feedback being received.

1,000 people have now signed up to the charity event in November "Run the Runway" with 3 cancer charities benefitting as a result.

BS Smith asked if Prestwick was still in line to be a preferred partner should the 3rd runway at Heathrow be given the go-ahead. **JM** stated that he wasn't aware, but would check with Jules Mattioni.

BS asked how the solar panelling of the cargo sheds was coming along. **JM** stated there was a delay, as it was discovered remedial work was required to be carried out on the roof by way of drainage before the panels could be fitted.

BS stated that on recent visits to the airport he had observed on 2 occasions the cleaner putting the contents of 3 different recycling bin bags into 1 bag. **JM** stated he would look into it.

BS asked how the airport gained the information that resulted in the airport achieving the highest rating from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in their latest Accessibility Report. **JM** stated that it normally came by feedback, both orally and in writing from the travelling public.

BS pointed out that there had been no Royal Mail flights for quite some time and asked if they had stopped. **JM** stated that they had stopped but hoped they would return. It was simply that the volume of mail handled by Royal Mail has dropped significantly. The airport still hopes to see the return of the annual Christmas mail flights.

7. Glasgow Prestwick Airport GPACC website page

BS confirmed that the GPACC webpage on the GPA website is now fully up to date.

8. Noise complaints

JM stated since the start of the season in April there have been 7 noise complaints. To be pro-active, the airport has introduced a 1930hrs curfew on crew training. There have been no noise complaints received since July.

9. Spaceport

JM stated that the launch service provider, Astraeus are still interested in the project, but delayed further engagement until the results of the general election were known. The airport continues to engage in the Spaceport project, but it is very much in the hands of local government as well as the Scottish and National governments. **BS** stated from open-source documents he had read that South Ayrshire Council would have to spend a further £500,000 to complete business cases as the government wish to start afresh on certain parts of the Spaceport project for various different reasons. It is clear from the documentation that due to the unacceptable financial risk with funds being expended on OBC/ FBCs with no guarantee of a return or deliverable AGD projects they have asked that discussions continue and new proposals to reduce the financial risk are brought back to the Council. To date Ayrshire Growth Deal capital expenditure by SAC is £3.26million on Spaceport infrastructure. £552,000 on the Prestwick/Monkton roads plan and £903,000 on the Aerospace and Space Innovation Centre. In total South Ayrshire Council have spent £5.259M on the AGD/ Spaceport project.

10. Police Scotland report

Not present and no update received.

11. Which consumer group update.

The decision by the WHICH consumer group to move away from UKACC will be on the agenda for the AGM at Leeds Bradford in November. **BS** confirmed that despite WHICH's decision, GPACC will retain Richard Searle and William McAlpine as passenger representatives. **RS** stated that he believed WHICH had come to this decision last November, and it would be doubtful if they were to go back on it.

12. Hosting of future UKACC annual meeting.

BS informed the group that correspondence had been received from UKACC head office seeking nominations for future AGM's. Prestwick last hosted the AGM in 1999. This year's AGM will be held at Leeds Bradford airport in November. After discussion around the table, it was agreed to express a note of interest to host the AGM in 2026. **JM** was asked to enquire with the CEO if some funding could be made available to assist in the costs associated with hosting the event at Prestwick.

13. General Aviation.

BL reported that the project to erect 2 polytunnel hangars on Apron Papa has been cancelled. This was due to South Ayrshire Council planning department requiring wind loading calculations that the hangar manufacturers could not provide. As a result of this requirement by South Ayrshire Council, **JM** stated the airport are now exploring different proposals for hangars they wish to erect for General Aviation aircraft.

14. GPACC vacancies.

BS stated that he would delay discussions around a vice-chair until the December meeting when more members would hopefully be present. There are currently vacancies for South Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, Visit Scotland, and Strathclyde Passenger Transport. Suggestions for new members which was agreed included Ayrshire Roads Alliance, HMS Gannet, Ayrshire College and the Royal Aeronautical Society Prestwick branch.

15. AOCB.

Nil.

16. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of GPAAC will be Friday 6th December 2024.

ACTIONS

ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
Ascertain why GPACC webpage is not being updated and look at making GPACC more visible within it	Juan Merrill	Updated - COMPLETE
Provide airport with updated list of GPACC members for the webpage	Bob Logan	COMPLETE
Discuss vacancies within the GPACC	Bob Smith/Bob Logan	Extended 31/10/24
Request annual subscriptions from the 3 Ayrshire councils and Dumfries and Galloway.	Jim McCall	On-going 31/10/24