

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

221st QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 07th March 2025

Present

Bob Logan - Secretary to GPACC

Jim McCall - Treasurer

James Riach - Prestwick Community Council

John McGhee - East Ayrshire Council

Eleanor Collier – North Ayrshire Council

George Smith – Co-opted

John Stevens – Royal Aeronautical Society Prestwick branch.

Richard Searle – Passenger rep

William McAlpine – Passenger rep

Alastair Heron – Ayrshire College

Wilson Barrie – University West of Scotland.

In Attendance

Juan Merrill CFO, GPA

Apologies

Bob Smith – Chair

Harry Middleditch – Monkton Community Council

Nigel Wallace – Co-opted

Neil Learmonth – Police Scotland

Kevin Braidwood – South Ayrshire Council

Ian Masterton – North Air

1. Welcome

BL, standing in for **BS** welcomed those present. He welcomed the new members, Eleanor Collier from North Ayrshire Council and Alastair Heron from Ayrshire College.

2. Apologies

There were five apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the 220th Meeting held on 09th January 2025 (postponed from 06th December 2024).

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as read.

4. Matters arising not elsewhere covered in the agenda/outstanding actions

BL stated that the UKACC had recently carried out an on-line search of what information regarding ACCs was available to the wider public. The purpose of this was to ensure member ACCs remain open and transparent in their work. Using the basic Red, Amber, Green rating system to give an overall picture of how visible our ACCs are, the following were looked at -

1/Published ACC contact. 2/ Published membership. 3/Published constitution/Terms of reference. 4/Published calendar of meetings. 5/Published agenda. 6/Published minutes. 7/ACCs own website/Page published on airport website.

BL stated that the Prestwick ACC was green right across all seven areas looked at. Out of the 24 ACCs, only 6 achieved full green ratings, so it was good to see Prestwick being one of them. **BL** thanked the airport for getting these items onto the website in a timely fashion.

ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
Liase with John Stevens RAeS regarding 90 th anniversary Scottish College of Aviation and possible plaque placement within airport	Juan Merrill	ON-GOING 01/04/25
Ascertain if CEO report can be circulated a week before the meeting.	Juan Merrill	ON-GOING 01/04/2025
Arrange for complaint forms to be held in central search	Juan Merrill	CLOSED

2 of the 3 actions are on-going with the action regarding the complaints forms closed. **JM** stated the forms are held on the airport website for anyone wishing to make a complaint.

5. Chief Executives report.

Before **JM** gave his report, **BL** stated to the group that this was Juans final ACC meeting as he was retiring. **BL** thanked him for attending the meetings over the past couple of years and giving the airport updates. On behalf of the Prestwick ACC, **BL** wished him a long and happy retirement.

JM stated that the winter season was coming to a close and that the passenger figures for the 12-month period was just short of 500,000. 21 of 30 new staff have been recruited for the upcoming summer season. For the coming summer season, there are some additional frequencies on 5 existing Ryanair routes. The security upgrades, in the form of scanners, will hopefully be in place by the end of March.

JM informed the group that toilet facilities in the departure lounge are being upgraded for the summer schedule.

The CAA have carried out an audit at the airport with a good summary rating.

The airport is acquiring two additional aircraft for the Prestwick Flight Centre. This is down to strong student demand. The maintenance hangar on site at the Flight Centre has also had a large refurbishment and talks are on-going to attract a new maintenance business to this facility.

The airport is constantly looking at ways to improve their carbon footprint, and are currently trialling a remote management system for heating and ventilation in the fire station.

Ayrshire college have now taken one of the hangars at the airport and some office space for their aeronautical students. **WB** stated that the current trend was towards the student population being involved in work-based learning. **AH** further emphasised this point by saying that Ayrshire College continues to train people around the cluster (Spirit/GE/Collins/Ryanair) and beyond. 50 students from the Ayr campus received apprenticeships last year, predominantly with the above companies.

There will be a charity golf event in April, following on from the success of Run the runway event last year.

There were 2 noise complaints in February from Prestwick residents. This is unusual for complaints from Prestwick residents, but is believed to have been due to the wind direction, which was blowing towards the town from the airport.

GS stated that whilst in the terminal in December, he saw a group of passengers arriving from Spain and they couldn't find their way round the airport. He stated that there was a lack of signage for trains, buses and taxis. **JM** stated he would look into this.

JR asked if any arrangements had been made yet with Edinburgh, who are going to have to close at night from October onwards in order to resurface their runway. **JM** stated Prestwick were making themselves available to Edinburgh, but was unaware if Edinburgh had reached out as yet.

6. Police Scotland.

Although not present, **NL** provided the following update. A number of U Division officers and supervisors have attended the airport for familiarisation training around airport policing.

7. Treasurer report.

JMcC stated he was still awaiting this year's funding from North and East Ayrshire. He has been in contact with both councils, but to date, no funding has been received.

8. General Aviation.

BL stated he would give the GA update under windfarms.

9. Spaceport update.

BS received the following answers to his questions on the spaceport from George Hunter, Assistant Director of communities, South Ayrshire Council. A paper went to the Cabinet mid-January on ASTAC – the training project supporting Aerospace being developed with GPA/ Ayrshire College.

1 - The Council are no longer progressing/funding the Spaceport due to the financial shortfall in the AGD? *We are no longer supporting the Spaceport due to broader issues with the deliverability of the project.*

2 - What parts of the AGD involving the airport will continue to be funded and brought to a successful conclusion? *ASTAC and commercial development/extraordinary abnormal supporting key companies/addressing market failure.*

3 - How is the repurposing of the funds progressing and is there some hope that the airport and its community will benefit in the months/years ahead? *A paper looking at the utilisation of funds is going to Council. Elements of which touch on commercial development at the aerospace park.*

10. Windfarms.

BL stated that the General Aviation community had become aware of a proposed new windfarm development near to Hunterston power station. Numerous persons within the community had filed objections to the proposed site – as had the airport. **JM** stated that there are 56 different developments and 600 turbines that can potentially affect ATC at Prestwick, which is the most congested area in the UK for wind turbines.

11. GPACC vacancies.

BL informed the group that North and South Ayrshire councils were now represented on GPACC. Border Force had also recently joined the group.

12. AOCB.

Nil.

13. Date of next meeting.

The date of the next GPACC meeting was scheduled for Friday 6th June 2025 at 2pm.

Revised action list.

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Liase with John Stevens RAeS regarding 90 th anniversary Scottish College of Aviation and possible plaque placement within airport	Juan Merrill	ON-GOING 01/04/25
Ascertain if CEO report can be circulated a week before the meeting.	Juan Merrill	ON-GOING 01/04/2025
Look at signage for train/bus/taxi within terminal	Juan Merrill	30/04/25

