

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Exeter Airport Consultative Committee held online via Zoom on 23 February 2022**

#### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.10 am

#### **39 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **40 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 were agreed as a true record.

#### **41 Matters arising**

#### **42 Bristol ACC meeting on 19 January 2022 - public attendance**

It was noted that Exeter was one of the few Airport Consultative Committees that did not have members of the public attending its meetings. Other ACCs allowed public speaking at the start of the meetings and then members of the public could stay and observe the meeting. Advice would be sought from other ACCs on a fail-safe mechanism and appropriate procedures and guidelines to put in place to ensure members of the public and pressure groups did not ambush the meetings. The terms of reference needed to be clear on the purposes and aims of the Exeter ACC to give the public an understanding of what the Committee does.

#### **43 Exeter ACC unable to respond to DfT questionnaire**

The Chair reported that as no responses had been received he had been unable to respond to the DfT questionnaire.

#### **44 Election of officers at our meeting on 18 May 2022**

The Chair welcomed Della Cannings to her first meeting of the ACC as a representative of West Hill Parish Council. He advised the Committee that he would be standing down as Chair at the next meeting in May, but would continue to support the Committee. The Vice Chair would also be standing down and EDDC were withdrawing secretarial support services. On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked EDDC for its support over such a long period of time, which was hugely appreciated. In order to fill the vacancies the Committee would need to be resourceful as a group. There were various possibilities for secretarial support, but capacity was an issue for all the councils.

#### **45 Report from Steve Wiltshire, Operations Director EDAL**

The Committee received an update from the Managing Director, Exeter and Devon Airport Limited. Passenger numbers were 15,000 in November, 10,500 in December and 10,419 up to 24 February. Numbers were reduced as a result of the Omicron Covid variant and restrictions that were put in place. The figures were slightly behind on forecast but some form of recovery was being seen with bookings.

The Managing Director updated the Committee on winter flight routes, which had been significantly impacted as a result of the travel restrictions. However there had been a 62% increase in movements from the prior year.

The airport's operating hours were still limited, generally operating from 9am to 6pm during the week and slightly longer at the weekend, but this would start to extend from March 2022. The airport currently had 213 full time equivalent employees and a recruitment campaign had begun for a range of staff for jobs in the summer. Covid security remained in place and a spike in cases had been experienced in January, but this had now reduced.

The airport had recently embarked on a net zero to 2050, achieving airport carbon accreditation level one.

There was now connectivity to North America from Exeter Airport. In response to a question about international and domestic passenger numbers the Managing Director reported that in January there had been 4,573 scheduled domestic, 591 scheduled international and 5,000 charter. December had seen 9,248 scheduled domestic, 1,085 international and 3,838 chartered.

On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked Steve Wiltshire for his report.

#### 46 **Report from Will Campbell, General Manager, Exeter Aerospace**

The General Manager, Exeter Aerospace gave the Committee an update report. Exeter Aerospace was continuing to grow, with 60 permanent staff and 30 regular contracts and the workshop capabilities were being expanded. Exeter Aerospace were looking to move into hanger 21 in March and had taken on the complete facility. It was also looking to sublease the office space in hanger 1 and 2.

Exeter Aerospace was planning on 110,000 man hours and expanding to 245,000 over the next four years. The big issue was man power and it was noted that this was a world wide issue, not isolated to Aerospace, with the sister company in Dublin experiencing exactly the same issues. The big challenge over the next 10 years was to bring staff into the area and the retention of staff. Exeter Aerospace were working very closely with Exeter College to set up an apprenticeship scheme for September 2022. It was also looking at cross training with other mechanics and engineers and to build the skill set in house.

Attracting business from Europe was a big challenge with Brexit. A line station had just been set up in Dublin supporting Emerald and the company was in the process of setting up a line station in Belfast too. Activities in the hangers at Exeter included:

- Deliveries to Emerald Airlines.
- Continuous flight training.
- Deliveries to Flybe.
- Continued partnership with Logan Air.
- Work with Aurigny.

Exeter Aerospace was starting to attract other operating companies and leases, but its biggest challenge was ensuring it had the right skill set and man hours. It was noted that Exeter City Council had good contacts with school's careers advisory services in Exeter and Victoria Hatfield offered to send the officer's contact details to Will Campbell.

On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked the Exeter Aerospace General Manager for his report.

47 **Report from Steve Rush, Director of Flying Operations, DAAT**

Steve Rush was not in attendance but the Chair explained that Steve Rush had taken over from Ian Payne as Director of Flying Operations for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

48 **Report from Philip Knowles, Manager, Police Helicopter Unit**

The Police Helicopter Unit Manager had given his apologies for the meeting but the Chair covered the following points on his behalf:

- The unit had remained quiet on the tasking front but had been successful in locating missing persons and assisting with a burglary.
- The operating hours remained from 1pm to 1am.
- The Unit was still one pilot down but was hoped that a new pilot would be in post by the end of March 2022.

49 **Report from Anne McLaird, Aviation Southwest**

There was no report from Aviation Southwest.

50 **Noise report from the Airport**

The Managing Director of Exeter and Devon Airport Limited reported that there had been no noise complaints received.

51 **Proposed Standard Instrument Departures for runway 26**

The Chair reported that the ACC had put in its recommendations for the standard instrument departures for runway 26. It opposed departure over Exeter city as it felt that this was unnecessary.

It was noted that full consultation would take place next year, and the ACC would have another opportunity to input. Part of the consultation would include noise footprints of the various flight options. Most of the complaints currently received were in relation to small aircraft and the proposals were unlikely to affect this.

52 **Complaints handling**

There was nothing further to add on this item.

53 **Any other business**

The Committee agreed that the current Chair would be a huge loss to the ACC when he stepped down, due to his wealth of practical experience. The Chair reassured the Committee that he would not be leaving the ACC and would always be willing to help.

The Committee were reminded that the next meeting would be held on 18 May and that it would need to appoint a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

**Attendance List**

Richard Bartlett – Independent (Chair)  
Chris Daly – Aylesbeare Parish Council (Vice Chair)  
Les Bayliss – Cranbrook Town Council  
Will Campbell – Exeter Aerospace  
Della Cannings – West Hill Parish Council  
David Harvey – Exeter City Council  
Paul Hayward – East Devon District Council  
Chris Scanes – Bishops Clyst Parish Council  
Steve Wiltshire – Exeter and Devon Airport Limited

**Officers in attendance:**

Victoria Hatfield, Growth and Commercialisation Manager, Exeter City Council  
Alethea Thompson, Democratic Services Officer, EDDC  
Sally Webster, Principal Environmental Health Officer, EDDC

**Apologies:**

Gary Collier – Clyst Honiton Parish Council  
Philip Knowles – Police Air Support Unit  
Anne McLaird – Aviation Southwest  
Dean Stewart – Ottery St Mary Town Council  
Andy Wood – Service Lead – Growth, Development and Prosperity, EDDC

Chairman .....

Date: .....