

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Exeter Airport Consultative Committee held at Exeter Airport administrative building on 18 May 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.30 am

1 Election of Chair

The retiring Chair welcomed three new members to the Committee:

- Alan Cook, representing West Hill Parish Council.
- Harvey Platter, representing Bishops Clyst Parish Council.
- Simon McGrigg, Police Helicopter Unit.

RESOLVED: that Dean Stewart be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

2 Election of Vice Chair

RESOLVED: that Chris Daly be appointed Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

3 Appointment of Secretary

The Committee noted that after many years East Devon District Council would no longer be providing secretarial services to the ACC. Steve Wiltshire, Managing Director, Exeter Airport had offered to provide interim secretarial services, with the aim of someone from the local community, who could be seen as totally impartial, taking on this role. Steve was thanked for this offer which the Committee accepted.

RESOLVED: that Exeter Airport provide interim secretarial services to support the work of the Airport Consultative Committee

4 Declarations of interest

Dean Stewart declared a personal interest as he was involved in running three aviation companies.

5 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2022 were agreed as a true record.

6 Matters arising

6a Replacement of secretarial services - the options available and views of the members

The Committee noted that after many years East Devon District Council would no longer be providing secretarial services to the ACC. Steve Wiltshire, Managing Director, Exeter Airport had offered to provide interim secretarial services. The Committee hoped that this would be an interim solution, with the aim of someone independent from the local community, who could be seen as totally impartial, taking on this role. Steve was

thanked for this offer which the Committee accepted. It was noted that an independent secretary was likely to want remunerating, but the ACC had no budget. The Chair informed those present that he would like to raise the profile of the ACC and make it more visible to the public. He would continue to discuss the long term solution for secretarial services with the Managing Director.

6b **Reduction in number of meetings each year from 5 to 4**

RESOLVED: that the number of meetings held each year be reduced from 5 to 4.

7 **Report from Steve Wiltshire, Managing Director EDAL**

The Committee received an update from the Managing Director, Exeter and Devon Airport Limited. Passenger numbers were 15,145 (5,639 domestic) for February, 18,600 (7,305 domestic) for March and 26,912 (11,713 domestic) for April 2022. Total passengers for the year to 31 March 2022 was 170,000, with 34,000 movements. Just under 50,000 movements were forecast for the present year.

The Managing Director reported that summer routes were picking up throughout May, with 28 destinations in 8 countries. There were 8 routes operating domestically:

- Belfast (recommencing 26 May).
- Edinburgh.
- Newcastle.
- Glasgow.
- Jersey.
- Guernsey.
- Isles of Scilly.
- Norwich/Aberdeen.

Five flights per week to Dublin had been launched on 29 April for direct connectivity to North America, with travellers pre-clearing customs and immigration in Dublin. Routes to Paris and Amsterdam remained work in progress and Manchester was still under evaluation.

The opening times were back to the standard operating hours – broadly 8am to 8pm published, plus 6am to 3am for scheduled. Covid regimes had been maintained, with mask wearing voluntary and at the discretion of the airline. Exeter Airport had not seen disruption to operation as at airports elsewhere, due to customers queuing or lack of crew. At times recruitment had been difficult, with 226 fte staff, compared to 295 fte pre-pandemic.

A request was made to use some of the figures provided to the ACC by various parish and town councils in their newsletters and on their websites to raise awareness of the ACC. The Chair advised that he would like to increase the social media profile of the ACC. He went on to thank the Managing Director for his interesting and insightful report and for his overall support of the ACC.

It was noted that three noise complaints had been received and investigated by the airport. In order to investigate complaints and the perception of problems, specific incident details were required. It was important to understand a particular incident as there were a number of rules to follow within airspace regulations as well as operational factors to consider. The Managing Director reported that Exeter Airport had been unsuccessful through the second stage of consultation reviewing how the airspace around Exeter was operating and how it would operate in the future. A new stage 2

review would be held in August 2022 and it was noted that the ACC was a formal consultee.

8 Report from Will Campbell, General Manager, Exeter Aerospace

The General Manager, Exeter Aerospace gave the Committee an update report. Exeter Aerospace was in the final stages of setting up a hands-on two day a week day release apprenticeship scheme with Exeter College. It was likely that Flybe apprenticeships would be taken on too. Recruitment in general had been a struggle, with contract staff being used, but the apprenticeships would be an opportunity to grow within the area.

A lot of work was being received on an ad hoc basis, with bigger contracts planned for January 2023. Exeter Aerospace were looking to structure working hours differently, to 7am to 7pm 7 days a week on a shift pattern as operators wanted support 7 days a week. Exeter Aerospace continued to support local operators, but the challenge was in attracting work out of Europe, with many factors such as high costs, Brexit, supply chain issues impacting this. It was noted that at present two sets of complete records were required which made practicalities even harder.

On behalf of the Airport Consultative Committee the Chair thanked the General Manager for his report.

9 Report from Steve Rush, Director of Flying Operations, DAAT

There was no report from Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

10 Report from Simon McGrigg, Operations Manager, Police Air Support Unit

Simon McGrigg, representing the Police Air Support Unit was welcomed to the meeting. He explained to the ACC how the service had changed and how the Police Air Support Unit was run under a lead force model, with funding provided regionally by individual police forces which shared hours and provided finances. It was noted that all 44 police forces owned aircraft, which comprised of 22 helicopters and 4 fixed wing aircraft. There was a central dispatch unit in Wakefield.

The Police Air Support Unit in the area had experienced a reduction in staff and pilots, following a reduction in operating hours from 24 to 12, providing a service from 1pm to 1am daily. On average the aircraft flew approximately 90 minutes per day, with the predominant reason for deployment in the South West being risk to life situations such as missing persons and suicide.

On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked Simon.

11 Report from Anne McLaird, Aviation Southwest

There was no report Aviation Southwest.

12 Noise report from the Airport

The Managing Director of Exeter and Devon Airport Limited reported that three noise complaints had been received since the last meeting:

- An early Sunday morning flight in April took off before 6am (pax jet) – address not known.
- At the end of February a TUI flight came low over a house in Clyst Honiton.
- A 3am flight was noisy over a house in West Hill – Royal Mail positioning back to East Midlands.

13 **Complaints from the community**

There was nothing further to add on this item.

14 **Any other business**

The Chair thanked the retiring chair, Richard Bartlett for all his work on the ACC over the years and for his valuable technical knowledge. On behalf of the Airport and the Committee the Managing Director thanked Richard for all his support. Richard thanked the Committee, and despite no longer having an official role on the ACC, he could be called on at any time as necessary.

15 **Dates of future meetings**

The Committee noted the dates for future meetings in 2022:

20 July

14 September

7 December

Attendance List

Dean Stewart – Ottery St Mary Town Council (Chair)

Chris Daly – Aylesbeare Parish Council (Vice Chair)

Gary Collier – Clyst Honiton Parish Council

Alan Cook – West Hill Parish Council

Harvey Platter – Bishops Clyst Parish Council

Steve Wiltshire – Exeter and Devon Airport Limited

Will Campbell – Exeter Aerospace

Simon McGrigg – Police Air Support Unit

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

Richard Bartlett, retiring Chair

Officers in attendance:

Alethea Thompson, Democratic Services Officer, East Devon District Council

Apologies:

Les Bayliss – Cranbrook Town Council

Henry Gent – Broadclyst Parish Council

Victoria Hatfield – Service Lead, Net Zero and Business, Exeter City Council

Anne McLaird – Aviation Southwest

Sally Webster – Principal Environmental Health Officer, EDDC

Jeremy Wollen – Rockbeare Parish Council

Andy Wood – Service Lead – Growth, Development and Prosperity, EDDC

Chair

Date: