



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

14 APRIL 2016

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
A Bosmans (FODSA), R Cooke (Robin Hood Airport), M Cotterill (Peel Airports Management), J Cox (Doncaster MBC), Councillor E Hoddinott (Rotherham MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), P Nears (Peel Holdings (Land and Property) Limited), Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), Councillor I Saunders (Sheffield City Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary) and Y D Woodcock (Ex-Officio)

Apologies were received from: Councillor J Blackham, Councillor R Blake, D Fell, Councillor B Mordue, K Naylor and Parish Councillor J Worthington

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A Tolhurst welcomed all Members to the April meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC).

An extended welcome went to Rob Cooke, the new Director of Operations at the Airport and to Peter Nears, Strategic Planning Director for Peel Holdings (Land and Property) Ltd.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

3 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2016**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 January 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

i) **Vulcan Aviation Academy**

Parish Councillor McCarron asked if there had been any further developments with regards to the construction of a Vulcan Aviation Academy.

M Cotterill reported that, unfortunately he had no update on the Vulcan Aviation Academy in order to be able to provide Members with the most up to date information.

ii) Vulcan to the Sky Trust – Restoration Project of a Mosquito World War 2 Aircraft

Parish Councillor McCarron asked if there was any news regarding the restoration project of a Mosquito World War 2 aircraft, which had been proposed by the Vulcan to the Sky Trust.

A Tolhurst commented that he understood that the Vulcan to the Sky Trust was in the process of working with the Mosquito restoration team to bid for funding support.

iii) Membership of the ACC

In relation to ACC Membership, the Committee Secretary confirmed that correspondence had been sent to Members of the ACC whose attendance at Committee meetings over the last year had been infrequent.

A Tolhurst reminded Members that deputies could attend meetings, should the appointed Member be unable to attend.

5 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Ordinary ACC meeting held on 14 January 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

6 MATTERS ARISING

i) Presentation on Airport Security

A Tolhurst commented that the presentation given at the last meeting on Airport Security had been well received by Members.

Parish Councillor McCarron commented that there had been an omission in the minutes regarding the discussion around security archway metal detectors and passengers whose bodies contained metal implants.

It was recalled that Parish Councillor McCarron had informed Members that she had a metal implant in her leg and that when she passed through the security archway at Robin Hood Airport, the security archway had not alarmed, whereas at another airport the archway had alarmed, querying why this had happened.

It was explained at the meeting that the security archway metal detectors could be adjusted to many levels of sensitivity to home in on certain metals and to be less reactive to others; hence this could be the reason why the alarm had been triggered at other airports.

ii) Presentation on UK Border Force and Policing at Robin Hood Airport

A Tolhurst informed Members that arrangements were being made for a presentation to be made at the July ACC meeting regarding UK Border Force and Policing operations at Robin Hood Airport.

iii) Presentation on Drones and Lasers

A Tolhurst informed Members that there would be a presentation at the 23 June 2016 meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee regarding the airport's code on the use of Drones and Lasers.

Members of the ACC were invited to attend the meeting.

iv) Tour of the Terminal Building

It was agreed that a tour of the Terminal Building would take place at the conclusion of the July meeting.

v) Sheffield and Doncaster Chambers' of Commerce

A Tolhurst made Members aware that both Sheffield and Doncaster Chambers' of Commerce were members of the ACC, and accordingly received agenda papers for the ACC.

7 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

M Cotterill provided the Committee with an update on Airport activities. In summary it was reported that:-

- During the last financial year (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016), 903,000 passengers transited the airport, compared to 760,000 passengers who had passed through the airport in the financial year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and 702,000 passengers during the financial year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- Following the re-acquisition of Robin Hood Airport back to the Peel Group there had been significant growth; current forecasts anticipated that 1.4 million passengers were expected to pass through the airport during the 2016/17 financial year.
- 4,000 tonnes of freight had been handled by the airport during the financial year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, versus 1,000 tonnes of freight which had been handled during the previous financial year (2014/15).
- Flybe had commenced their operations at Robin Hood Airport on 24 March 2016; forward sales for Flybe routes were on target.
- Flybe services to Berlin would increase from four weekly to a daily service, due to unprecedented demand from the Sheffield City Region's business community.
- Flybe had announced new flights to Dusseldorf and Chambéry for its winter season.
- Faro and Newquay would be replaced with the two new winter routes with capacity to Jersey reducing to three times weekly during the winter.

- Works on the airports' infrastructure projects were almost complete, Members noted that:
 - A new arrivals shelter on the Terminal Building would become operational week commencing 18 April 2016.
 - A new 'Meet and Greet' car parking option would become operational with effect from 1 May 2016.
 - A new Premium Lounge had recently opened, located within the Terminal Building.
 - The Vulcan Viewing Lounge, previously closed to passengers, would re-open shortly.
 - There had been improvements to the Central Search area, including additional security x-ray machines and queuing lanes. The improvements would allow Security staff to process extra passengers and overall improve passengers' experience.

Parish Councillor McCarron informed Members that she had observed that there were a large number of arrivals and departures at the airport during the morning and evening, asking if flights could be spaced out during the day.

M Cotterill explained that airlines operated on fixed take-off and landing slots, in particular at major destination airports and that unfortunately, there was little influence the airport had on an airlines' timetable and patterns of activity.

R Cooke added that this pattern of flight activity was operated at every airport in the country; airlines worked on passenger demand profiles to allow them to get the maximum use from its fleet each day.

County Councillor Pearson referred to the forthcoming EU Referendum, asking if there would be implications for the airport if the UK voted to leave the EU.

M Cotterill explained that he understood that should the UK vote to leave the EU, then the ability for people to come and work and live in the UK would be more restricted, and therefore, could potentially have implications for both airlines and passengers.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

8 **CAA CONSULTATION ON ISSUES AFFECTING PASSENGERS' ACCESS TO UK AIRPORTS: A REVIEW OF SURFACE ACCESS**

Members were reminded that the CAA was currently reviewing surface access to UK airports to better understand how they are operating and how that affects consumers, focussing primarily on road-based access to airports, including transport providers' access to the airport forecourt: the review details are in a recently published Consultation on 'issues affecting passengers' access to UK Airports: A Review of Surface Access.

Members had been asked to provide the Committee Secretary with their views on any aspect of the review by Friday 8th April 2016.

A Tolhurst commented that he was disappointed to report that only two 'nil' response returns had been received from Members of the Committee.

Members were invited to provide their comments in relation to the questions contained within the Consultation:

Surface Access Options

Members felt that in general, passengers are well informed of the options for getting to the Airport and on the facilities and services available onsite.

The website has recently been updated and is clear and easily accessible.

The opening of the Great Yorkshire Way (FARRRS) has significantly reduced journey times to the airport from the Sheffield City Region and the completion of the last phase of the development will make travelling by road to the Airport even more attractive.

Signage to the Airport

It was noted that the majority of passengers arrive at Robin Hood Airport by road.

With regards to highway signage to the Airport from the South Yorkshire motorway networks, Members felt that this could be improved, especially from the centres of local towns and on the M1 to M18. Signage from the A1 (M) is confusing and could be improved.

Members acknowledged that the solution to the problem rested essentially with the Highways Agency, but took the view that the shortcomings of the present arrangements impacted adversely on the Airport.

It was noted that Satellite Navigation Systems need to be updated to show the new 'Great Yorkshire Way'.

Signage at the Airport site and in the Terminal was good.

Car Parking Facilities

Members commented that the car parking facilities at the Airport more than meet the needs of the current business and the closeness of the car parking sites to the Terminal is seen as a real marketing plus point. On the other hand, the problem associated with the policing of the access roads was well known and had been recorded several times in the past. It was recognised that provision needed to be in place to prevent passengers and others from parking unnecessarily on the approach roads to the Airport. Members took the view that the enforcement company could exercise more discretion in cases of real emergencies, before issuing penalty notices. The publicity attached to the problem adversely impacted on Peel Airports Ltd and on Peel, which is something that Members would hope could be avoided.

Members suggested that in the longer term it would be helpful for the various car parking options at the Airport to be colour coded to aid passengers.

It was suggested that passengers who had previously used the Airport's onsite car parking received periodic emails with special offers etc. in order to obtain repeat business.

A Member asked if airport management had considered the use of a specialised online agent to help sell a complete package for passengers.

Public Transport

Members commented that the current bus schedules to and from the Airport leave much to be desired. There are reports of passengers arriving at night without transport having been arranged and having only the options of using taxis or walking because the buses to the town centre have stopped running. This appears to be particularly relevant to Wizzair flights, but could affect passengers from other flights which have been delayed.

Airport Station

Members commented that the first iteration of the Airport Master Plan included a proposal to develop a rail station at RHADS; but this provision seemed to be missed from a report published by Transport for the North on the Northern Transport Strategy which set out a shared rail vision for the future.

It was felt that providing a rail link would have a very positive impact on the marketing of the Airport and on its development and suggested that discussions on the development of a rail station could be resurrected.

Members also felt that Peel should consider connectivity across the whole of the Sheffield City Region, linking in with the Tram-Train project and High Speed Rail 2 (HS2).

RESOLVED – That the responses received by Members be included in an ACC report to inform the views of Airport Management before a final response to the consultation is sent by Peel Airports Ltd.

9 **CAA CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS**

A Tolhurst informed Members that the CAA had launched a major consultation regarding how decisions are made on proposed changes to the UK's airspace structure.

The CAA had commissioned consultants, Helios, last summer to undertake a review of the airspace change process (primarily the CAA's CAP 724 and CAP 725 Airspace Change Guidance note) and made a number of recommendations to the CAA. The CAA has considered those recommendations and was now consulting on the proposed changes to the process.

Members were informed that the Consultation Document was available on the CAA's website (<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/proposals-for-revised-airspace-change-process>) and that Chapter 4 set out the specific changes the CAA is considering to each stage of the process.

RESOLVED – That Members be requested to provide the Committee Secretary with their views on the questions set out in the consultation paper by Wednesday 8th June 2016 in order to coordinate a RHADS response.

10 VIEWS SOUGHT: UKACCS SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The Chair informed Members that email correspondence had been received from the UK Airport Consultative Committee's (UKACCs) to provide ACC Members with an update regarding a review of the UKACC Secretariat and Support Service and to highlight matters that required this Committees' consideration prior to the UKACC Annual Meeting being held in June 2016.

Member ACCs were now being invited to forward their views with regards to the options set out in the email to re-vamp the UKACCs website.

RESOLVED – That Members support the option to seek equal contributions from all 23 member ACCs to revamp the UKACCs website, noting that a new scale of membership subscriptions would be implemented to raise funds for a new UKACCs website.

11 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 MARCH 2016

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 17 March 2016 be noted.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Pilgrim Fathers 400th Anniversary

P Nears informed Members that there had been an Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons on 9th March, where Bassetlaw MP John Mann had asked questions in Parliament about the plans for the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage, coming up in 2020.

Members were made aware that the Plymouth area had received financial support from Government, with £35,000 being announced to upgrade facilities at the Mayflower museum. It was noted that £500,000 worth of financial support had been announced in the Chancellors Autumn Statement for Mayflower-related celebrations across the country. Visit England was currently in the process of allocating that sum and would involve in its work a number of areas across the UK and not just the city of Plymouth.

P Nears stated that it was important for airport management to become involved in the planning and discussions regarding the Mayflower 2020 celebrations for the local area. M Di Salvatore agreed to forward the relevant officer contact details onto P Nears. **ACTION: M Di Salvatore**

ii) Car Parking Enforcement

Members commented that there had been a number of stories in the local press recently regarding passengers who had been fined for stopping on the Airport's access roads. Members were of the opinion that stories in the press could have a reputational risk for Peel Airports Ltd.

A Tolhurst reminded Members that the Airport's access roads were owned by Peel Investments North and Peel Land and Property and monitored by a private parking enforcement firm.

Members asked if information could be provided to the next meeting regarding the number of fines issued and appealed. **ACTION: R Cooke**

iii) South Atlantic Medal Association – Falklands Memorial Service

Councillor O'Connor informed Members that he had recently attended a Falklands Memorial Service held in the Vulcan Hangar, commenting that it had been a very moving and well organised service.

iv) Portable Noise Monitor – Request from Blaxton Parish Council

Parish Councillor McCarron informed the Committee that Blaxton Parish Council had made contact with the airport several times regarding the portable noise monitor being positioned in Blaxton to record aircraft noise, without success.

R Cooke apologised for the delay, explaining that there had been some technical problems with the noise monitor; a replacement modem was currently on order.

v) Agenda Item for July ACC Meeting

R Cooke informed the Committee that K Naylor had asked that a discussion takes place at the next meeting regarding a five yearly review of the Quota Count Point System in use at Robin Hood.

A Tolhurst agreed that this agenda item would be best considered at the June meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

vi) Tour of the Cargo Hangar

Parish Councillor McCarron asked if it would be possible for a tour of the Cargo Hangar to be arranged for Members.

A Tolhurst agreed to discuss the request with the Airport Director. **ACTION: A Tolhurst**

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the ACC be held on Thursday 14 July 2016 at 10:00 am in the Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

At the conclusion of the meeting there will be a tour of the Terminal Building.

CHAIR