



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 JANUARY 2014

PRESENT: Mr A Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
Councillor B Barker (Bassetlaw District Council), Mr A Bosmans (FODSA),
Mrs L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), Mr S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of
Commerce and Enterprise), Mr C Harcombe (Robin Hood Airport), Mr P Harris
(Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise),
Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor H McNamee
(Doncaster MBC), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County
Council), A Shirt (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), I Smith (Robin Hood
Airport), Mr A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio) and Councillor Y D Woodcock
(Doncaster MBC)

Apologies were received from: Mayor R Jones, Mr P Cole, Mr D Fell, Mr S Gill,
Councillor B Hoyle, Mr P Nears, Councillor P Schofield,
Town Councillor P Scholey, Councillor J Summers and
Parish Councillor J Worthington

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed Members to the eighth Annual General Meeting of Robin Hood
Airport Doncaster Sheffield Consultative Committee.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17
JANUARY 2013**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Airport
Consultative Committee held on 17 January 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

3 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chair informed the meeting that the Airport Director had mentioned several times
in 2013 that the year would be one of consolidation, with aviation in general being
impacted upon by the global economic climate, and with airlines withdrawing to their
traditional main operating bases as a means of weathering the austerity storm.

There were some important and interesting developments during 2013, nationally and
locally which the Chair wished to report upon:-

Aviation Policy Framework

Nationally, the most significant event was the publication of the Government Aviation Policy Framework, which replaced the 2003 Aviation White Paper. Essentially, the Framework reiterated the important contribution Aviation could make to growth in the UK economy.

Airport Commission

Stemming from the Framework, the other major item to hit the national headlines was the setting up of the Airport Commission, whose interim report was published in December.

The report stated that there was a need for one additional runway in the south east to be in operation in 2030 and a second by 2050.

There would be analysis of developments at Gatwick and Heathrow. It had also been suggested that proposals for the Thames Estuary, Birmingham and Stansted would be considered at a later date.

The Group of smaller regional airports made representation that facilities outside of the south east should be given due consideration in the review, however this seemed not to be the case.

Air Passenger Duty

One particularly unhappy note was the continued frustration felt by aviation and business partners, as well as the public at large, about the imposition of the Air Passenger Duty by the Government.

In the face of strong representations from all sections of society and evidence that other countries had relaxed their policies on passenger duty; the Chancellor announced in the Autumn Statement that APD would increase again from 1 April 2014.

There was general disappointment that there was no sign of reform and concern, even anger, that the competitors had been handed a free pass to grow their Aviation sectors, in particular with emerging markets.

FARRRS Link Road

Turning to the local scene, the major development in the year under review was the start of work on the FARRRS link road. The support for the project from the LEP had been significant and the scheme was now on track for completion, hopefully in 2016, although major projects such as this were often subject to delay.

Members were reminded that the current plan sees a connection being made from the M18 to Parrot's Corner, with further funding being sought to complete the section from the A638 to the airport link road at Hurst Lane. This would be a significant step in the continued development of the Airport as a contributor to the economic growth of the Region.

Business Support

With regard to economic development, the Chair highlighted that the business community continued to support the Airport as best it can. Whilst business people welcome the routes available for leisure there was frustration that there were not more routes available for business purposes.

That, said, attendance late last year by the Airport management at the World Routes Conference was a success and there was increased interest in opportunities at Robin Hood. Some of the interest may link with plans to increase tourism in the region, especially the aim to capitalise on the Pilgrim Fathers' story.

More recently, the Airport launched a survey of business trends with a view to improving connectivity for business within the region. The results of the study would be useful in the debate on the best ways forward for air-rail inter-modality.

The link established between the Airport and Doncaster College, with 6 apprentices starting work at the Airport in the year, was also a further example of strengthening of the relationship with the community.

Cargo

The Chair commented that whilst passenger figures were at a steady level, with 654,478 passing through the Airport, cargo traffic increased by 8% in the year and was evidence of the increased effort which the Airport's management team were putting into this activity. (7,469,438 pax since 2005).

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee had completed its first year in its new guise and was getting to grips with the technicalities of noise monitoring.

The number of complaints had plateaued, although there had been an increase in contacts with individuals (with a small number making as many as 5 complaints in a month).

The bulk of complaints continued to come from residents in Bawtry with one very active resident in Moorends. Training flights tended to generate more complaints than regular scheduled activity.

In terms of runway utilisation, runway 20 was used more than 02, due to the prevailing wind direction.

To increase Members knowledge and experience of airport operations, the Sub-Committee had a briefing on emergency procedures and visited the Fire Section and Air Traffic Control. In addition, the ACC had received an excellent briefing from Gary Weston on his cargo operations.

In summary, whilst activity at the Airport may have been below original expectations, 2013 had not been a bad year, with cargo operations increasing, access to the Airport being improved, and passenger numbers holding up and with increased interest from new operators.

It was also a good year, as Robin Hood's value to Peel Airports Limited was reaffirmed and control was handed back from Liverpool.

The Airports value to the local economy was also further increased, as the Airport Director and his team became more involved in activity at the LEP.

The Chair rounded-up his Annual Report by taking the opportunity to thank the Airport Director and his team for their support and guidance to the Committee and to Andrew Shirt and the Secretariat for their work in keeping the Committee informed and on the correct track.

The Chair extended his personal thanks to Committee Members for their interest and involvement in the life of the Airport and in supporting himself.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

4 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A report of the Secretary was presented setting out the current membership of the Airport Consultative Committee and the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the current membership of the Airport Consultative Committee and Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

5 SCHEDULE OF 2014 MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the following schedule of meeting be agreed:-

Airport Consultative Committee

Thursday 16 January (AGM and Ordinary)
Thursday 17 April
Thursday 17 July
Thursday 16 October

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

Thursday 20 March
Thursday 19 June
Thursday 18 September
Thursday 4 December

All meetings will commence at 10:00 am, in the Blenheim meeting room in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, unless stated otherwise.

CHAIR