



## **ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT**

### **AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**14 JANUARY 2016**

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)  
A Bosmans (FODSA), P Cole (Office of Caroline Flint MP), T Henshaw (Robin Hood Airport), Councillor E Hoddinott (Rotherham MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), B Mordue (Doncaster MBC), K Naylor (Robin Hood Airport), Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), Councillor C L Strange (West Lindsey District Council), Town Councillor Gordon Whitehead (Tickhill Town Council), Y D Woodcock (Ex-Officio), C Woolley (Securitas UK) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Claire Woolley (Securitas UK)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor J Blackham, Councillor R Blake, M Cotterill, Councillor J Cox, D Fell, Councillor R Franklin, S Gill, Councillor J Hart, Councillor I Saunders, Parish Councillor C Sheriff and Councillor P Skelding

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

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

Introductions were made and apologies for absence were noted as above.

#### 2 **MINUTES OF THE ACC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2015**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 January 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

#### 3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair reported that 2015 had been a very special year for Airport; it had marked its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary operating as a commercial entity and saw the signing of a new contract between the Airport and Thompson, which had been operating services from the site for 10 years. Furthermore, to add to the good news, there was the introduction of the service to Dublin and the consequent opening up of services to the East Coast of America and Canada.

In November, there had been the announcement of a significant contract between the Airport and Flybe, which would introduce services to 8 new destinations starting in a couple of months' time. This would make the Airport even more attractive an option for local travellers as the services to Paris and Amsterdam in particular would make destinations to the East more accessible.

Given the endless delay on the decision to develop additional capacity in the south-east, the introduction of the Flybe services will undoubtedly be a benefit for local businesses and tourists.

There had been some important and interesting developments during 2015, nationally and locally which the Chair wished to report upon:-

### Airport Commission

With regards to the debate about London Heathrow and Gatwick, the Chair believed that there was not enough attention given to the limitations posed by the available airspace in the South-East. The current air traffic system had been designed years ago, which must severely handicap developments in traffic volume. While aircraft separation distances over the Atlantic had been reduced to facilitate increases in traffic flow, it was not clear, whether the costs of developing a new ATC system in the UK had been factored into the project costs being considered by the Government to develop a larger hub in the South-East.

### FARRRS

Another good news story was the creation of the Aero Centre Yorkshire, which with the new FARRRS link road would contribute to the regeneration of the region and add many new job opportunities.

The Chair highlighted that this was further proof of Peel's commitment to the airport site and to growth in the region.

### Security

Internationally, there was the terrible accident involving a Russian airliner which was brought down over the Sinai; and the downing of a Malaysian Airlines aircraft over the Ukraine. Such events had focussed once again, attention on the need for tighter security and safety across the whole spectrum of aviation activity.

Passenger security checks had become more stringent, causing additional delays and inconvenience at airports. Procedures to ensure that security checkpoints could not be bypassed were routine and certain international routes had been closed to airlines as the threats of terrorist actions had increased. The recent attack in Istanbul has had an immediate impact on travel to Turkey.

### Last Class

The Chair informed the Committee that whilst looking at the global aviation scene, a couple of items had caught his attention last year. Some airlines had unofficially

introduced a new class of passenger seating entitled “last class”. It was difficult to know whether this news would have an adverse impact on passenger numbers, coupled with the ongoing debate around Air Passenger Duty (APD). The Chair suggested that this would not be welcomed by the travelling public.

### Antisocial Behaviour

Another item to catch the Chair’s attention was with regards to the increases in antisocial behaviour on flights. In one case a woman passenger had grabbed a stewardess by the throat after an argument over a spilled drink. The flight from New York to Chicago had to be diverted, and the woman was arrested.

In December, a passenger on a BA flight from Amsterdam became verbally aggressive and unruly and had to be removed before the aircraft could depart from the airport.

In another case, a Jet2 aircraft on a flight to Newcastle had to be diverted to Shannon, because of a 42 year old woman from Sunderland being aggressive and abusive to the cabin crew and other passengers. She was arrested and was billed for £6800 to cover the cost of the diversion.

The Chair commented that in none of the cases above was there the consumption of alcohol reported to have been involved.

### Local Developments

Turning to more positive matters and focussing on the local scene, the last season of Vulcan flying had been a great success, as demonstrated by the number of those viewing departures to and arrivals from air show tours. The only negative aspect was the lack of publicity of the last flight; however, the reasons for this were well understood.

Enthusiasm for the Vulcan as part of the local scene continued unabated and the news that an aviation engineering academy, with the Vulcan as its focal point, was planned for development at the airport was excellent news.

It was also good to hear that the Vulcan to the Sky Team would be working with a group seeking to restore to flying status a Mosquito World War 2 aircraft, had received universal approval and support.

### ACC

2015 marked 10 years’ for the ACC as a facilitator between the Airport and the local community. The ACC continued to keep the Airport Director and his team informed of local concerns; one example being problems regarding off-site parking and the policing of the parking policy on the approach roads.

The first full year of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee had been operating in its new guise, and Members were gradually getting to grips with more detail and the technicalities of aviation.

The number of complaints about aircraft noise during the year was limited, with just a few complainants' comments making up the bulk of the totals. The Chair congratulated the airport for dealing with complaints regarding aircraft noise in a professional and caring manner.

The relationship between the Committee and the airport management continued to flourish. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the Airport Director and his colleagues for their support and advice over the past year and for their hard work in developing the airport as a key facilitator for the economic regeneration of the region.

The Chair rounded-up his Annual Report stating that with the New Year well underway, it was with satisfaction at all that had been achieved in 2015 and moving forward to even better times in 2016, which will be heralded by the opening of the FARRRS link road and the start of the new Flybe services.

Y Woodcock thanked the Chair and Committee Secretary for all their hard work undertaken during 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman's Annual Report be noted.

4 ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - NEW MEMBER  
INDUCTION PACK

The Chair presented Members with a copy of the 'ACC's New Member Welcome Pack'.

The Welcome Pack set out an introduction to the Committee and facts about the airport; the Committee's Constitution; meeting arrangements; membership and a list of airport company staff usually in attendance at meetings.

Parish Councillor McCarron referred to the membership of the Committee, highlighting that a number of the members listed, had either, never attended meetings or their attendance had been infrequent.

The Chair reminded Members that in the event when they could not attend a meeting; they were more than welcome to send a substitute from their organisation.

It was agreed that the Committee Secretary would write to Members whose attendance at Committee meetings over the last year had been infrequent.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the ACC New Members Welcome Pack be noted and endorsed by the Committee.
- ii) That the Committee Secretary writes to Members of the ACC whose attendance at Committee meetings, over the last year had been infrequent.

5 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A report of the Committee 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.

6 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016

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

Airport Consultative Committee

Thursday 14 January 2016 (AGM and Ordinary)  
Thursday 14 April 2016  
Thursday 14 July 2016  
Thursday 13 October 2016

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

Thursday 17 March 2016  
Thursday 23 June 2016  
Thursday 15 September 2016  
Thursday 1 December 2016

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

CHAIR