



## **ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT**

### **AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**14 JULY 2016**

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)  
V Alty (Robin Hood Airport), A Bosmans (FODSA), M Cotterill (Peel Airports Management), D Lelliott (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), D Pidwell (Bassetlaw DC), Councillor I Saunders (Sheffield City Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), Councillor A Smith (Doncaster MBC), M Thomas (West Lindsey District Council), Y D Woodcock (Ex-Officio) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: Councillor R Blake, Councillor J Cox, Councillor R Franklin, S Gill, M Di Salvatore and Councillor C L Strange

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the July meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC).

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

#### **2 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A Tolhurst commented that following the April ACC meeting, a number of significant events had occurred nationally. Firstly, the impact of Brexit was currently unknown, along with the UK's political system. In relation to the impact on aviation, commentators seemed to be divided on the subject.

A Tolhurst invited M Cotterill to provide the Committee with the Airport's view on Brexit.

M Cotterill commented that, unfortunately at this current moment in time there remained a number of unknowns; a number of thoughts and potential scenarios had come to light following the UK's vote to exit from Europe; all of which had different outcomes.

It was noted that one of the most significant risks for aviation would be the potential loss of the UK's membership of the European Common Aviation Area (ECAA), which as an EU member, the UK aviation industry currently benefits from access to the ECAA which allows British airlines to fly a route to and from any country in the ECAA. Currently, it was unclear if airlines would no longer enjoy automatic access to this liberalised market.

In terms of airlines operating from Robin Hood, it was indicated that if Brexit occurs then there could, potentially be less passengers arriving into Robin Hood on Wizz Air routes from eastern European areas.

3 PRESENTATION ON UK BORDER FORCE AND POLICING AT ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT

A Tolhurst reported that, unfortunately due to staffing levels, a representative from Border Force was unable to attend today's meeting.

It had been agreed that the presentation be re-scheduled to the October ACC meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2016

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

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

A Tolhurst commented that there had not been any recent communications from the Trust regarding the restoration project of a Mosquito World War 2 Aircraft.

It was noted that the Trust had recently purchased a Canberra WK163 aircraft for restoration.

ii) Membership of the ACC

A Bosmans asked if consideration could be given to allow for a representative to attend ACC meetings from the South Yorkshire Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils' Associations.

A Tolhurst asked Members for their opinion; no objections were received.

A Tolhurst agreed to consider the request and discuss further with A Bosmans outside of today's meeting. **ACTION: A Tolhurst**

iii) Presentation on Drones and Lasers

It was noted that Members of the ACC had been invited to the June meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee where a presentation had been delivered on Drones and Lasers.

A Tolhurst informed Members that they had been asked to report any activity to the Airport which they may witness currently taking place in villages close-by to the Airport, in relation to Balloons, Fireworks, Lasers or Drones on the following telephone number **01302 625642**. The Airport could then take action to sanitise the airspace above the particular area.

iv) Car Parking at Robin Hood Airport

Y Woodcock commented that she was pleased to observe that one of the car parks close to the terminal building was currently closed due to it being full to capacity.

M Cotterill informed Members that there had been record levels of demand for onsite car parking, so much so that the Airport was having to construct a temporary car parking capacity to meet demand.

In relation to car parking enforcement, M Cotterill reported that from the beginning of July 2015 to the end of June 2016, 2,797 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) had been issued by the private parking enforcement firm, Vehicle Control Service Ltd, who monitored the Airport's access roads on behalf of Peel Investments North and Peel Land and Property. It was noted that 490 appeals had been received; of which 83 had gone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the appeals process. Over the 12 month period, there had been 427 less tickets issued than the previous year.

Councillor Mordue reported that a Doncaster MBC vehicle had recently stopped on Hurst Lane to clear-up broken glass and subsequently, in the days following, the Council had received a car parking fine for stopping on Hurst Lane.

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that this issue had been reported at the June meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee. A Tolhurst requested that the airport follows-up with Stephen Racjan at Doncaster MBC.  
**ACTION: K Naylor**

The Committee was again, of the opinion that stories in the press regarding car parking fines at Robin Hood Airport, could have a reputational risk for Peel Airports Ltd.

In terms of signage, Members asked if the warning signs displayed on the Airport's access roads were visible enough.

M Cotterill assured Members' that the Airport's Commercial Manager was in regular dialogue with Vehicle Control Services Ltd, and that the Committee's comments had, and would again, be passed onto him.

v) Pilgrim Fathers 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

M Thomas informed Members that an Illuminate 2016 Event would take place in Doncaster later in the year. The local councils were currently marketing the event.

It was reported that the Northern Group of the Pilgrim Fathers were currently making plans to progress a memorial trail via a national HLF bid. Visit Lincoln were currently talking to groups in America to attract visitors to the area.

Councillor Pidwell suggested that the Airport makes contact with John Mann MP regarding where it could provide its input.

vi) Portable Noise Monitor – Request from Blaxton Parish Council

Parish Councillor McCarron asked if there had been any progress made with regards to fixing the portable noise monitor.

K Naylor reported that there had been a number of technical problems with the noise monitor; a new modem had now been fitted and a new SIM card was currently on order.

6 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the changes of membership on the Airport Consultative Committee as outlined below:

- Doncaster MBC have appointed Councillor Alan Smith (in place of Councillor James Hart);
- Doncaster MBC have re-appointed Councillor Joe Blackham, Councillor Bill Mordue, Councillor Jane Cox and Councillor Rachel Blake;
- Rotherham MBC have appointed Councillor Denise Lelliott (in place of Councillor Emma Hoddinott) and
- Bassetlaw DC have appointed Councillor David Pidwell (in place of Councillor Jo White).

7 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

- Passenger numbers continued to grow; from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 330,000 passengers had travelled from Robin Hood Airport over the three-month period, compared to 240,000 passengers who had passed through the airport from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- Passenger numbers and interest in the Paris Flybe route was suffering a little due to general softening of the market. This has also been seen by other operators at other major airports.
- The possible reason for the low demand on the Paris route was thought to be in respect of the recent terrorist attacks and the slowdown of people taking European city breaks.
- There had been record levels of demand for onsite car parking. This was similar to demand being seen for car parking at East Midlands Airport and Manchester Airport.

Councillor Pearson commented that it was pleasing to see passenger levels growing and demand for car parking increasing. He asked if the airport was making any contingency plans to deal with the increased demand.

M Cotterill explained that the airport was carrying out Capacity Reviews which took into account the anticipated levels of demand for the next 5 years and the options available to the airport to meet demand.

- The 'Meet and Greet' car parking service had been exceptionally well received by passengers and excellent reviews had been obtained.
- To help reduce delays in Central Search and to improve passenger experience, two new security x-ray machines were currently on-order.
- 1,791 tonnes of cargo had been handled by the airport from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, compared to 640 tonnes in same period in 2015.
- The Airport were hopeful that they may be able to secure a scheduled freight operation from Robin Hood later in the year.
- The Airport had recently handled delivery of two cargo planes, each filled with 100 tonnes of large and complicated freight items from the USA in preparation for the pop artist Beyoncé's European tour.
- An aid flight to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia had departed from the airport.

A Bosmans commented that the driving directions on the airport's website were still directing passengers from the A1(M) North or South from J34 and taking the A614 heading towards Bawtry and not via the link road. **ACTION: M Cotterill to raise with the Airport's Marketing Team.**

It was noted that satellite navigation systems didn't yet show the new link road.

K Naylor reported that discussions continued with the bus operator and SYPTE regarding the local bus timetable changes taking place at the beginning of September 2016, which served Robin Hood Airport.

A Bosmans referred to the withdrawal of the Aer Lingus Regional service to Dublin from Robin Hood, asking what measures were being put in place by the airport to mitigate this.

M Cotterill explained that the airline had also withdrawn services at both East Midlands and Cardiff Airports'; this was a strategic decision taken by the airline and not by the airport. The airport were currently in talks with an airline who may be able to operate the route.

## 8 CAA CONSULTATION: GUIDANCE FOR AIRPORTS ON PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE WITH HIDDEN DISABILITIES

V Alty, Terminal Services Supervisor at the airport, informed the Committee that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) were currently consulting on its proposed guidance (CAP 1411) which set out what UK airports needed to do in order to comply with their obligations under the Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRM Regulation) in relation to providing assistance to people with hidden disabilities.

Members were informed that hidden disabilities included, but were not limited to, dementia, autism, learning disabilities, anxiety issues, mental health impairments and hearing loss. A significant proportion of the UK population were affected by such disabilities and conditions.

The Committee considered the guidance document, commenting that from their own personal experiences, staff at Robin Hood Airport did an excellent job in helping and providing a high standard of assistance to both physically disabled passengers and to those with a hidden disability.

Members' noted that the airport planned to improve its offering to passengers with hidden disabilities, via staffing training and also by meeting with the Autism and Dementia Society to understand what further improvements the airport could make for passengers travelling with a hidden disability.

V Alty thanked Members' for their comments, adding that a response would now be formulated by airport and submitted to the CAA, taking account of the Committee's comments.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted that the airport would be providing a written response to the CAA's Consultation by the deadline of Friday 15 July 2016.

9 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JUNE 2016

The Committee noted that there had been an increase in the number of complaints reported to local Parish Councils' in relation to aircraft noise.

A Tolhurst wished to remind Members that all complaints in relation to aircraft noise, must be reported to the airport to allow them to investigate the issue.

Noise complaints could be reported to the airport by calling the 24 hour answering service on 01302 623499, or by email [environment@robinhoodairport.com](mailto:environment@robinhoodairport.com) or in writing to the Environment and Community Manager, Robin Hood Airport, Heyford House, First Avenue, Doncaster, DN9 3RH, by leaving their name and address followed by the date of the disturbance, time and any other information to assist the investigation.

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 23 June 2016 be noted.

10 UKACCS ANNUAL MEETING 2016 - KEY MESSAGES AND OUTCOMES

The Committee considered the key messages and outcomes of the UKACCS Annual meeting held on 8-9 June 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted the key messages and outcomes from the UKACCS Annual Meeting held on 8 – 9 June 2016.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Finningley and Blaxton – Construction of new Sports Pavilion

Y Woodcock reported that construction work had recently been stopped onsite, due to the site contractor not obtaining a Crane Permit from Robin Hood Airport, prior to commencing work onsite.

Members commented that they would be interested to understand how a local builder would be made aware of the requirement to notify UK airports.

V Alty agreed to obtain clarification from the Airport's Duty Manager.

**Post meeting Note from Daniel Marsden, Airport Duty Manager,  
14 July 2016**

A local builder may not be aware - but a crane/high reach operator should be as part of their training and licence to operate. As the operator it is *their* responsibility to ensure that if a crane is to be used within 6km of an aerodrome/airfield and its height exceeds 10m or that of surrounding structures or trees. If higher, the appointed person should consult the aerodrome/airfield manager for prior permission to work. This is part of the British Standard Institute Code of Practice for the safe use of cranes (BS 7121).

On the side of the Airport Authority, we obviously have a responsibility to safeguard as well, which is why if prior permission has not been sought, or granted, and a crane/high reach piece of equipment is being used, the operation must be ceased until all necessary risks have been assessed.

ii) Thanks to the Chair and Committee Secretary

On behalf of the Committee, Y Woodcock wished to thank both A Tolhurst and A Shirt for all their hard work.

iii) Valediction – Mr Colin Joy

Y Woodcock informed the Committee that sadly, Colin Joy (Doncaster MBC's Tourism Manager) had suddenly passed away at the beginning of June at the age of 52.

Members' expressed their condolences.

iv) Hedge Rows

Parish Councillor McCarron wished to inform the airport that the hedge rows in the vicinity of the airport now required trimming.

M Cotterill acknowledged the request, informing Members that the hedge rows were scheduled to be trimmed during late August 2016.

v) 2<sup>nd</sup> Runway at Robin Hood

Parish Councillor McCarron informed the Committee that it had been queried at a recent Parish Council meeting if there were plans for a second runway at Robin Hood.

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that he was unaware of any developments for a second runway at Robin Hood.

V Alty added that, repair works on the taxi ways were scheduled to take place during the winter period.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 20 October 2016 at 10:00 am, in the Blenheim Meeting Room, Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

CHAIR