

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 15th November 2012

Précis of minutes for publication on Airport website & Airport Notice Board

Present - 13 Members + Minute Secretary + 2 Representatives of Gloucestershire Airport (GAL) + 1 Representative of Gloucestershire Police

Apologies - received from 1 Members + 1 Representative of Gloucestershire Airport (GAL)

The Chairman welcomed the new representative for Fixed Wing Flying Schools.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th August 2012 -

The minutes were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising -

1. Airport Tenants and Users Group (ATUG)

It was reported that ATUG had a meeting recently, albeit not particularly well attended but interest was continuing to be roused. The finances had been sorted out and there was just one signatory for the account.

It was agreed that this item could be removed from 'Matters Arising'.

2. Charity/Future Events: - The following are planned for next year –

19.01.13 – Travel & Leisure Weekend – This has been planned for the weekend commencing 19th January 2013, further details to follow

22.06.13 – Project Propeller – This is an Aircrew Association event which is an annual reunion for WWII aircrew, to which they are flown from all over the UK in light aircraft by volunteer pilots, this event was held at Coventry Airport last year. The event will probably be held in the Terminal hangar and comprise a Dinner/Dance although planning is still in its infancy and further details will follow in due course. The event will be open to those on the Airfield. This is a daytime event and may cause some disruption to Operators.

14.07.13 – Airport Open Day – The Airport Open day will be held in the same format as previous years

Consultative Committee Matters:

The representative for Twigworth Parish Council has resigned from the Consultative Committee due to relocating to Churchdown and no longer sits on Twigworth Parish Council. The Chairman has sent him an email thanking him for his positive contribution to the Consultative Committee. It was agreed that a replacement representative for Twigworth should be sought.

Gloucester City Council will be contacted regarding the appointment of a new representative following the resignation of their representative.

It was noted that the details on the on the web site would be updated when new representatives had been appointed and other minor inaccuracies would be corrected at the same time.

The Chairman read to the Committee an email received from the 'Aviation Environment Federation', after a short discussion, it was agreed that a general response reply would be made.

Airport Management Matters

i. Airport Development Plan:

The Managing Director reported that the Runway Safety Project is continuing to progress successfully and is within budget, although currently running 3 weeks behind schedule.

The Instrument Landing Systems and Airfield Lighting (ILS/AGL) should be completed by the end of the year. The ILS approach procedures are with the Directorate of Airspace Policy. Ongoing delays, due to

CAA staff shortage, indicate that procedures should, hopefully, be available by March 2013. GAL has been notified of a site visit by the Planning Committee which is due to take place in mid December relating to the appeal in respect of keeping the original road access available for emergency use.

ii. Environment Report

Green Policy: This was recently reviewed by officers from Gloucester and Cheltenham and presented to the Joint Airport Working Group. Several recommendations were made which will be incorporated over the next 12 months. Overall the officers were pleased with the progress made by GAL.

Bus Route: The campaign to have a new bus route through Bamfurlong lane is ongoing. Work is continuing with Stagecoach and there is a possibility this will be included at the same time as the redevelopment of Boots corner, Cheltenham Park & ride etc.

Broadband: Virgin Media and LDE Ltd, has installed a fibre optic link on site for Broadband. Some Businesses on site have already been connected.

Draft Aviation Policy Framework: The Managing Director had circulated the Draft Aviation Policy Framework for Committee members to be aware of the policy and its contents, in particular Chapter 5 which relates to Consultative Committees. Consultation on the Policy closed on the 31st October 2012. He had read the Policy and felt that the Consultative Committee is doing a very good job and leads by example.

A general discussion followed regarding the role of this Consultative Committee and it was felt that our structure was very strong and the balance between Aviation and Council representation was correct. The excellent communications channels that have been established over the years are very positive and balanced. It was therefore felt that there is currently no requirement to change anything. The Chairman confirmed that the Agenda and Minutes of the Consultative Committee were published on the website. Other Airports/Airfields are monitored and GAL appears to be in middle, the overall impression is that we meet the statutory guidelines and cover all the requirements.

Two members agreed to lobby Gloucester City Council for a replacement representative (as noted as being required under an earlier agenda item).

Noise Complaints

It was reported that there had been 119 noise complaints during August, September and October made up as follows:

Staverton 1; Churchdown 4; Cheltenham 1; Badgeworth 8; Bamfurlong Industrial Park 1;

Shurdington 1; Gloucester 1;

Plus the following from Regular Complainants –

Bamfurlong Lane 53; Cheltenham 46;

Plus 3 outside of the ATZ – Tirley 1; Quedgeley 2;

Head of Operations reported that there were 24,371 movements during this period and the noise complaints equated to less than ½ of 1% of the total. A member commented that considering the population of both Gloucester and Cheltenham, the noise complaints were very low in comparison. The Chairman's offer of a flight to a concerned resident from Down Hatherley has, so far, not been accepted. The Down Hatherley representative mentioned that at their last Parish Council meeting the resident had suggested another member of the Parish Council accepts the offer. However, the Chairman insisted that this offer was only to the original complainant as there would not be any advantage of taking a replacement flying over the area. Once airborne, the resident would be able to see that the Church is not deliberately targeted. After further discussion regarding this resident's views and requests it was unanimously agreed that this Consultative Committee is the best forum to discuss noise complaints and splinter groups would not be helpful or beneficial. All members of the Committee were aware that everything was being done to minimise noise.

Another member, who is absent tonight, asked the following point to be made through the Chair – he had recently had a noise complaint made against his aircraft whilst descending from a relatively high altitude over Cheltenham which, being American registered, only has small lettering on the side of the fuselage and nothing on the under wing and so he wondered if the complainant was listening in to the radio as it would be impossible to read the registration number from the ground.

Report of recent Planning Applications

Jet Age Museum (JAM) - The Jet Age Museum was currently being built and therefore would be taken off future Agenda's. It was mentioned that the 'Buy a brick' campaign was continuing and the offer of the use of a temporary hangar has now been completely shelved.

Wind Turbines - Strensham , Alney Island & Forest of Dean – All no further updates available.

An application has been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council for the airport to be considered within their 2012 Strategic Employment Land Availability Assessment (SELAA). Should we be identified, it will enable the planning process for the Airport to be much more straightforward. Our submission proposed that the airport is recognized as a site for aviation related activity (i.e. requiring an airport location) and sites outside the operational area recognized as employment opportunities, with the caveat that we would consider aviation related and engineering employment ahead of any other.

GAL's bid to secure an interest free loan with G First and the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund has been short listed to the final 5. G First is working with both the Airport and the Shareholders to progress matters. It was thought this was an excellent idea and would help employment in the area

A copy of the Economic Value of Gloucestershire Airport would be attached to the Minutes and issued to Committee members.

Airport Security Situation

The following Airport Crime and Incident Statistics were provided by Gloucestershire Police for the period from 31st July 2012 -

Gloucestershire Airport - 2 reported crimes (1 vehicle stolen + 2 Access platforms stolen)

Anson Business Park - 1 reported crime (Containers stolen)

Bamfurlong Industrial Park / Staverton Industrial Estate - 1 reported crime (Fuel siphoned from vehicles)

Meteor Business Park - 1 reported crime (Cash stolen)

GAL mentioned that security on site is being investigated and measures put in place including CCTV, Patrols, remote monitoring. The vulnerability of other areas on site is being looked into.

Any Other Business

The ATUG representative would be working with Head of Operations to encourage more events to be held at the Airport.

A member asked if there were more military aircraft coming to GAL and if this was because of the RESA and ILS system? The reply being that military aircraft numbers had not increased; however, they do call in for fuel if on training exercises in the area

It was mentioned the JAM had been approached by an Air Scout Unit who were looking for somewhere to use for their club

A member reported that the Transair Pilot Shop at Gloucester is closing at the end of the month

Head of Operations asked for comments/opinions on having a War Memorial at the Airport. Following a Civic Memorial in Cheltenham and the many numbers of RAF personnel from the area he thought it would be a fitting tribute and suggested the pillbox bandstand area in front of the Aviator would be a suitable location. He would be keen to hear from anyone with suitable suggestions.

The meeting closed at 19.15

Date of next meeting and AGM: Thursday 21st February 2013 at 6 pm.