

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 20th February 2014

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

Present - 11 Members + Minute Secretary + 2 Representatives of Gloucestershire Airport (GAL)

Apologies - received from 4 Members + 1 Representative of Gloucestershire Airport (GAL) +
1 Representative of Gloucestershire Police

Normally at this point the Secretary would take the chair and ask for the endorsement of the existing Chairman and election of the Vice Chairman for the next 12 months.

Due the current Chairman standing down after this meeting - she will chair this meeting and the matter of appointing a new Chairman and Vice Chairman will be dealt with under Item 4.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st November 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2014 were amended to indicate the correct date. Also the Jet Age Museum representative added his apologies as the minutes indicated he had invited members from the Consultative Committee to the Open Day of the Jet Age museum, the invitations will be to a restricted list only rather than an open invitation, and this amendment was also approved. The amended version was then signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman then welcomed 2 new members – a representative for Badgeworth & Little Witcombe Parish Council and a representative for Local Interests.

Matters Arising –

The recently held Travel and Leisure event was attended by over 500 people. 25 holiday bookings were made on the day by tour operator, OSET holidays.

The prize draw survey from the event showed the most popular requested destination as Edinburgh and Paris. The Airport Director stated that it was a successful weekend.

The Airport Charity Ball was held in February and raised nearly £3000 for the Fly2help charity.

Future Events for 2014

Fly2 help (the airport charity) will be holding another ‘Air Smiles Day’, date still has to be confirmed but expected end of April or beginning of May.

May 9th is the Jet Age Museum official opening.

14th June-Flyer Magazine Fly In

The relationship the airport has with Flyer magazine was explained. It is the magazine’s 20th Anniversary and would like to hold their celebratory event at the airport to include a fly in, BBQ and an evening event. It was queried whether the event would be covered by local press and confirmed that events are covered by Press releases and also Radio Gloucestershire always provide good coverage although this event is seen more as an aviation event rather than a public event. The member stated the importance of keeping the airport profile high.

17th June is the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership Annual Event. It is being held in the Direct Aviation hangar and 200 business leaders from the county are expected to attend.

20th June is confirmed for the Eastgate Cycle Runway Rumble event which is a 4 hour endurance cycle after the airport has closed. 250 cyclists are expected to attend the event.

'Project Propeller' is to be held on the 21st June, it was explained to the members as a reunion for ex-service aircrew where private pilots collect them from their nearest local airport and fly them to Gloucestershire Airport for the reunion, free of charge. GAL confirmed that there will be two venues, the Terminal Building and a shuttle bus in operation to ferry the aircrew and veterans to the Jet Age museum. A member asked whether Civics had been invited. Head of Operations will check as he considered it a good opportunity. The member will pass on the contact details if required.

The Airport Charity Open Day is now confirmed to be held on Sunday 20th July.

The 'Meteor Mile' run is confirmed for 6th September.

Consultative Committee Matters:

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman -

Chairman – The Chairman has received no notification from any member other than the current Vice Chairman, who has indicated that he is prepared to take over the chair. This was duly proposed and seconded and all agreed.

Vice Chairman – The representative for 'Local Interests' was put forward, this was duly proposed and seconded and all agreed.

Airport Tenants and User Group (ATUG)

The Chairman gave the members a brief history on how ATUG was initially set up in the early 1980's at a time when there were issues between the operators/tenants and the Airport Management of the day. By the end of the 1900's it had become dormant. In 2008 someone tried to revitalise the group and track down any remaining funds. Another person subsequently took over as Chairman and has found very little interest in keeping it going.

The Consultative Committee's only involvement has been a platform to keep track of the funds.

Following the last Consultative Committee Meeting, as agreed, the Chairman contacted a couple of ATUG members to sound out the suggestion of putting ATUG funds towards the proposed Memorial to be sited at the Jet Age Museum. This was met with positive response so she contacted the current chairman of ATUG who was equally enthusiastic at the idea, and he agreed to email all ATUG members with the proposal and stating if there were no objections received by 24th February the ATUG funds (approx. £1500) would be transferred into a Memorial Account with him & our retiring chairman as caretakers. No objections have been raised to date.

Airport Management Matters

The Airport Director gave the following update

Traffic levels for 2013 ended at 73,875, just over 100 flights ahead of 2012 levels. Poor weather towards the end of the year impacted on growth but the traffic levels at a sustained level for two consecutive years indicates increasing stability in the market.

The headline, year on year figures of note are: -

- Growth in traffic Fire Cat. 3 or above 3%
- Growth in business aviation 34%
- Growth in commercial training 14%
- Growth in instrument training (ILS etc.) 9%

2014 has started well with some exceptionally busy days when the weather is good (3200 flights).
Scheduled Services

Citywing carried 14,176 passengers in 2013, down by 1100 against 2012 but with an improved load factor of 59% on Isle of Man (up 1%) and 75% on Jersey (up 11%). However, they have reported that advance Jersey figures are down on sales to this time last year and may have to rethink the schedule.

The closure of Flybe's IOM base and significant rationalisation and restructuring of their route network should boost GLO/IOM traffic as Bristol, Birmingham and Southampton services cease or reduce

Business Development Report

Facebook -1305 followers (up 88 since November). Twitter followers now total 2901 (up154).

Airport tours – In 2013 the airport had 48 visits from schools, Scouts and adult social groups. We have already held 4 school visits this year, with a further 7 bookings already confirmed.

A member asked how the aircraft movements were counted as there had been a suggestion at the Parish Council meeting that the movements had been underestimated. Head of Operations advised that the aircraft that approached the runway but did not land were classed as a go around and did not form part of the aircraft movement totals. He further stated that these go arounds are recorded so they could be added.

Another member asked whether any runways were going to be closed for new buildings.

The airport Director stated that this was one of several proposals in the recent York Aviation report but no decisions or significant progress had been made as more pressing issues needed to be addressed. He further stated the closure of runway 18/36 would have minimal impact on the business but there are no immediate plans to do so and that helicopter flight paths in particular need consideration before any decisions could be made.

The Chairman mentioned the recent planning application at the Ashville Estate, it was stated that this had been rejected but may go to appeal.

Environment Report

Solar panels are still being investigated and two potential suppliers have been asked to present a business case. The planning officer's opinion suggests that any proposal submitted to the planning authority would need to demonstrate very special circumstances. They believe that we could build a case to justify the proposal linked to the need to reduce our carbon footprint and the overall benefits of green energy generally.

Cycle hire for visiting pilots from the Terminal Building is ongoing

No update to the Green Policy

Noise Complaints

November 2013 – 6,520 Movements

- 7 x Helicopter (6 x David's Field & 1 x Bamfurlong Lane)
- 8 x Jet (8 x Bamfurlong Lane)
- 3 x Prop (3 x Bamfurlong Lane)
- 1 x Not Known (Bamfurlong Lane)

December 2013 – 4,729 Movements

- 5 x Helicopter (2 x David's Field & 3 x Bamfurlong Lane)
- 7 x Jet (7 x Bamfurlong Lane)
- 4 x Prop (1 x Moat House, 1 x GL51 6TD & 2 x Cheltenham, Rushworth Close)

January 2014 – 5,170 Movements

- 3 x Helicopter (2 x Bamfurlong Lane & 1 x David's Field)
- 5 X Jet (5 x Bamfurlong Lane)
- 2 x Prop (1 x Bamfurlong Lane & 1 x Cheltenham, Rushworth Close)

Report of recent Planning Applications

Not a planning application, but notification received today of two potential wind turbines. Gloucester City is investigating a turbine at Alney, similar to the original application but slightly larger (about 10 metres).

Clean Earth Energy is proposing a wind turbine on land at Tredington House, Tredington, Tewkesbury GL20 7BU. The turbine will be 50m to the hub and 77m to the tip.

Further analysis will be necessary, including running the data through the airport safeguarding software before any comment can be given.

It was reported that planning permission had been requested for signage on outside of museum building.

The airport Director agreed to look into the planning application on Longford Lane as two houses had been purchased and demolished recently which could be access for 570 new houses

Airport Security Situation

From 1st December to 31st January -

Gloucestershire Airport - Reported Crime = 0; Reported Incidents = 1 A green laser light had been reported on 20th January. Laser lights are to be featured in the next Airport and Operators Safety Committee Meeting

Anson Business Park - Reported Crime = 0; Reported Incidents = 0

Bamfurlong Industrial Park / Staverton Industrial Estate - Reported Crime = 0; Reported Incidents = 0

Meteor Business Park - Reported Crime = 2 both Jet Age Museum; Reported Incidents = 0

Any Other Business

The Chairman asked if the current flooding situation had any impact on the airport. Head of Operations replied that the grass runway is currently out of use. The weather had impacted recreational flying but it is an encouraging situation when the weather improves.

Media, Network Rail and Electricity helicopters have made use of the airport with refuel and lunch stops. The Airport Director reported an increase of helicopter movements along the river. Head of Operations reported no complaints had been received regarding the activity.

A member congratulated the airport on taking on Apprentices especially a unique Apprenticeship of Air Traffic Engineer. GAL explained that the airport currently has 3 Apprentices and 3 previously.

Another member asked about kerbing on new entrance road as HGV are driving on the edges and also customers for the Aviator using the grass verge for parking making the entrance look untidy.

It was stated that the airport is looking at preventative measures.

The Airport Director passed on his thanks to the retiring chairman for her long service as Chair of the Consultative Committee.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th May 2014 at 6 pm

Meeting closed at 1900