

COVENTRY AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2017 at 1700 hours at
Airport House, Coventry Airport

Present:	Mr P Burns MBE (PB)	Chairman
	Mr Ron Walker (RW)	Coventry Airport Tenants and Users Association (Vice Chairman)
	Mrs Pamela Gainer (PG)	Coventry Trades Union Council
	Cllr Ram Lakha (RL)	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Roger Horsfall (RH)	Baginton Parish Council
	Mr Larry Coltman (LC)	Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
	Mr Alan Yates (AY)	Campaign to Protect Rural England
	Mr John Astle (JA)	Stoneleigh & Ashow and Bubbenhall Parish Council
In Attendance:	Mr Alastair Mackinnon (AM)	Coventry Airport, Accountable Manager
	Andy Hixon (AH)	Coventry Airport, Operations Manager
	Richard Pace (RP)	Coventry Airport, Oversight Director
	Judy Groves (JG)	Rigby Group, Director
	Andrew Bell (AB)	RCA Chief Executive
	Tracy Sweeney (TS)	Coventry Airport, Scribe
Absent:	Nil	

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was declared open at 1700 hours by the Chairman

2. Apologies:

No apologies were received.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest:

There were no declarations of conflict of interest raised.

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4. Minutes of meeting on 9th December 2016:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. The minutes were approved.

5. Matters Arising:

There were a lot of concerns raised to the Chairman about the future of the airport. The Chairman advised the meeting of a confirmation he had received from Coventry City Council that the strategy for the Airport remained unchanged and there had been no application to close the airport or any communication with the Council that sought to consider this.

6. Airport Update:

JG gave a brief overview of what has happened to the airport since the Rigby Group bought the lease in 2009.

She advised that despite every attempt to make the airport sustainable through the passenger, cargo and executive jet businesses, these efforts had not resulted in the required levels of business. Because of this there is currently a proposal that is being consulted on with staff to change the current ATC, fire and operational activities to a level more suited to General Aviation.

Communication of the proposal has been published and broadcast in various newspapers, TV and radio programmes as well as direct to staff, tenants and users of the airport.

JG finished by saying that until the consultation is completed which is set for the 12th July then no further information or clarity can be given to the committee at this moment in time, but that as soon as the consultation had completed further information could be shared.

RW raised his concerns that prior to the release of the letter on the 12th June 2017 to the tenants informing them the consultation had started, there was no communication to himself (as the chairman of the Tenants and Users Association) or other customers, to ask what the proposal would mean for their business. He has growing concerns that he is already losing business due to the reduction in Air Traffic Service and cannot foresee it improving after the consultation if the proposed changes are implemented.

The Chairman suggested that a separate meeting was to take place between RW and the Airport Authority to discuss the matter separately. RW and AB agreed this would happen and a separate meeting would be established.

Changes to post holders; AB introduced himself and his role within the airport and the wider RCA Group as the Chief Executive. AB explained the role RP would be taking on as the Oversight Director of Coventry Airport. The current Accountable Manager of the airport AM will be leaving tomorrow as his temporary contract comes to an end. The Accountable Manager role will be taken on by Andy Hixon who is currently the Operations Manager and whom has the relevant qualifications, experience and expertise in the airport to take on this additional role going forward.

Reduction in service; RW asked if there will be any more airport closures due to the reduction in Air Traffic Service. AB confirmed he hoped there wouldn't be any further disruptions to the current service.

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7. Any Other Business:

Airspace Change Proposal (ACP); There is currently a consultation underway led by the Airport concerning the introduction of a GPS-based precision approach procedure for pilots with relevant equipment in their aircraft.. . There was some discussion about the potential for confusion with two consultations running in parallel, and the meeting agreed that an update on the ACP consultation would be given to a future meeting, when the outcome of the consultation concerning the proposed change to the airport's operations was known.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

The Chairman sought a further meeting of the ACC as soon after the completion of the airport's consultation on the proposed operating changes was completed to enable the committee to fully understand the outcome. A date will be agreed between the Chairman and the Airport Authority. The meeting was closed by the chairman at 1853 hours.