

COVENTRY AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May at 1600 hours.

Present:

Mr Peter Burns MBE (PB)

Mr Ron Walker (RW)

Cllr Roger Horsfall (RH)

Cllr Ben Edwards (BE)

Cllr John Blundell (JB)

Mr John Astle (JA)

Mr Alan Yates (AY)

Chairman

Based operator Midland Air

Training and Airpark Flight

Centre and vice-chairman of the

CACC.

Baginton Parish Council

Warwickshire County Council

Coventry City Council

Stoneleigh & Ashow and Bubbenhall

Parish Council

Campaign to Protect Rural England

In Attendance from Coventry Airport:

Mr Richard Pace (RP)

Mr Andy Hixon (AH)

Mr Steve Lindon (SL)

Mr Mike Murray (MM)

Coventry Airport Oversight Director

Coventry Airport, Operations

Accountable Manager

Senior AFISO

Coventry Airport Director

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1. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was declared open at 16:00 hours by the Chairman. PB remarked that this was a sad occasion, being the last meeting of the Coventry Airport Consultative Committee.

2. Apologies:

Nil

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest:

There were no declarations of conflict of interest raised.

4. Minutes of meeting on 17th October 2025:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

5. Matters Arising:

None

6. Airport Closure Update:

RP:

RP provided an overview of the 6-month process that has been followed with the CAA to manage the closure of the airfield on 10th June 2026. UK AIP AIRAC 06/2026, effective 11th June 2026 has been checked and there are no Coventry Airport entries.

RP will prepare a draft of the minutes and circulate for comment and approval.

RP will draft a letter to be sent to the CAA/DfT together with a copy of minutes when approved.

MM:

MM provided an overview of the process that was followed which involved giving affected occupiers notice under their tenancy agreements. Tenants leaving has been staggered as far as practicable. A DC3 left last week, all remaining aircraft will need to leave by 10th June. Any remaining non-airworthy aircraft will then need to leave by road.

After airport closure archaeological surveys will be completed prior to planned demolition works in December 2025/January 2026. Remaining ground investigations will be completed. Work has commenced on the building of a substation on the Northern Apron. Works are planned on Rowley Road during the school summer holidays 2026 to bring power to site from across the city.

PB

What is the current interest in building a giga factory?

MM

Ongoing discussions continue with potential occupiers, but these discussions are protected by NDAs. There is a broad spectrum of interest in battery related technologies and the presence of relevant skills in the region.

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BE

Planning permission [for a giga factory] is in green belt.

MM

Not applying for the site to come out of green belt, expansion of the remit could include battery technology research and development.

JB

Leads being followed up, power to the site is being funded by the combined authority.

RW

You now have approval for 7 units rather than one gigafactory?

MM

The revised planning consent allows for 2 battery factories and associated production & warehousing.

The global market has moved from single large giga factories to smaller units to meet a specific company's need.

AY

Will the fuel farm and navigation equipment be decommissioned and will the control tower go?

MM

Yes

AY

What about road signs with reference to Coventry Airport?

BE

This is on WCC to do list.

AY

What is happening to the air ambulance?

MM

The air ambulance is remaining in occupation until 1st April 2027 and have obtained their CAA licenses to operate two Final Approach and Take-off Areas (FATOs).

Air Ambulance have submitted a planning application to build a new facility at Catthorpe, the primary motive being a more central location for their land based rapid response vehicles. There is an ongoing dialogue with the air ambulance.

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AY

The Minerals Policy applies to all planning applications, has this been considered?

MM

A minerals policy report was submitted as part of the original planning application in 2019/2020. Material excavated on site is planned to be used and stay on site.

7. AOB

RW

Disappointing to see the airfield close and the closure of businesses and associated redundancies and their cost. Airpark will continue as a landside operation. Aerotech have made redundancies as a result of the airfield closure.

There has been a significant cost to based operators with no help from Coventry City Council, Rigby Group, the West Midlands Combined Authority or the joint venture which is a shame. This is a disgrace not spending a few hundreds of thousands of pounds when compared to the overall project cost.

Having said this, I wish the development of the airport future success and hope that the sacrifice is not in vain.

RH

Who will be the point of contact going forward? There has been poor communication over the last 10 years of disruption.

MM

Confirmed as the initial contact.

JB

I will take the point about no help offered to based operators back to Coventry City Council.

AY

How will we be informed of the closure?

RP

The minutes of this meeting will record the closure of Coventry Airport on 10th June 2026.

JA

I am sympathetic towards all who have been affected.

BE

The South Warwickshire local plan states that the land will be taken out of greenbelt by Coventry City Council. Talks are ongoing. The current plans have deviated from the original outline planning permission. Highways will need to re-visit the effects on local infrastructure.

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RP

I wish all well in their future directions.

PB

It has been a pleasure to chair this committee although meetings became less frequent over time. Thank you all for your commitment and time.

Meeting closed at 16:47