

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

217th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 8th March 2024.

Present

Richard Searle Chair

Bob Smith Vice-Chair (Co-opted)

Bob Logan Secretary to GPACC

James Riach Treasurer (Prestwick Community Council)

Harry Middleditch Monkton Community Council

John McGhee East Ayrshire Council

William McAlpine Passenger Representative

Jim McCall Co-opted Cargo

In Attendance

Juan Merrill CFO, GPA

Apologies

Nigel Wallace

George Smith

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present.

2. Apologies

There were two apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the 216th Meeting held on 1st December 2023

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as read with the following amendments-.

In relation to the training program for students, **JM** pointed out that the airport was merely in discussion with Ayrshire college regarding a training programme and nothing had been formally agreed at this stage.

On the point of noise complaints, **JM** stated that to give the noise complaints some proper context, the 38 complaints over the preceding 12 months was against the backdrop of 8800 aircraft movements.

4. Matters arising not elsewhere covered in the agenda.

Nil.

5. Chief Executives report

JM deputising for the CEO, informed the group that Ryanair were still in their winter schedule and that the airport was well ahead in recruiting new staff for the upcoming summer season. He also stated the airport had made significant investment in new ground equipment.

WMcA asked if the airport were going to scrap the 100ml liquid rule as was being seen at other UK airports. **JM** stated that as GPA fell under the 1million per annum passenger bracket there was no current requirement to install the equipment, and in any event, keeping the status quo would not negatively affect the passenger experience at Prestwick.

On the progress of the Spaceport, **JM** stated the airport were still holding regular meetings with South Ayrshire Council and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) licence was progressing. **WMcA** asked if the Spaceport would actually happen to which **BS** provided the following detail from the AEJC November minutes. –

- Spaceport Infrastructure – There is a significant funding gap and additional funds are required if the project is to proceed. Extensive discussions between SAC, SG and UKG are ongoing to overcome the complex challenges facing the project.
- Prestwick Commercial Space – Site preparatory work is complete and the project is awaiting Mangata`s series B funding round of £100 million. These delays have had a knock-on effect with completion of the build now not expected until the second quarter of 2026.
- Prestwick Infrastructure Roads – Progress with the STAG is ongoing for the Ayrshire Growth Deal Roads Enabling Project. A further report has been prepared and lodged for presentation to cabinet detailing work undertaken to date and the next steps required to minimise delay in the program.
- Aerospace and Space Technology Application Centre – Meeting between SAC and GPA has taken place to look at viable properties within the airport estate and establish the needs of SAC/Ayrshire College.

6. Out of date GPACC details on the GPA website

JM stated that the GPA website is getting overhauled and would be updated later in the day with the previous GPAAC meeting minutes. The chair asked if our website should be shut down now that GPA are updating the minutes on their website. **BS** stated he thought it should remain, and the chair left it for **BS** to make any final decision when he takes over as Chairman in June.

7. Prestwick Flying Club

BL informed the group that since the last GPACC meeting in December, he has had a meeting with Steve Thomson, and a stakeholder meeting is scheduled for the 13th March 2024.

8. Noise complaints

In relation to noise complaints, **JM** stated that procedures are being followed to deal with such issues. He informed the group he will prepare a geographical depiction of the complaints for the next meeting - ACTION

9. Treasurers annual report

JR gave the meeting an update with regards to GPACC's annual report, stating that an income is still received from the 3 Ayrshire councils. The current bank balance is £10,000. **WMcA** asked if this money should be in a high interest account, but it was agreed that issues with changing over and possible bank charges, would make any financial gain negligible. The chair stated that the charge for membership of the liaison group for the consultancy committee is going up, although GPAAC currently pay less than the bigger airport groups due to our size.

10. Search for new Secretary.

The chair stated that **BL** had offered to take over the role of Secretary This was agreed by the members present.

11. Search for new Treasurer

The chair **stated that JMcC** had offered to take over the Treasurer role. This was agreed by the members present.

The chair intimated that it was his intention to step down after the meeting on the 7th June, with Bob Smith taking over as Chairman for the group. Again, this was agreed by the members present.

12. AOCB

JR asked about if the ongoing building work at HMS Gannet would bring more aircraft to the airport. **JM** stated this was unknown but that the Navy were investing in a new accommodation block.

BS raised an issue in relation to trees being felled and fly tipping occurring near to the entrance of Car Park 6. **BS** had been informed by a member of the public that the trees were being felled by 2 members of the public for fire wood. He was also made aware of fly tipping in the same area, whereby the contents were being blown about in the wind and could encroach airside and cause a FOD issue. **BS** reported this to the airport, but to date hadn't heard any confirmation back. **JM** stated he would look into it. – ACTION

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is planned for Friday 7th June 2024 at 1400hrs.

ACTIONS

ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
Prepare a geographical depiction of noise complaints for the next meeting	Juan Merrill	7 th June 2024
Ascertain if tree cutting and fly tipping issues have been actioned – Possible FOD issue	Juan Merrill	15 th March 2024