

GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

218th QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON Friday 7th June 2024.

Present

Richard Searle - Chair

Bob Smith - Vice-Chair (Co-opted)

Bob Logan - Secretary to GPACC

Jim McCall - Treasurer/Co-opted Cargo

James Riach - Prestwick Community Council

Harry Middleditch - Monkton Community Council

John McGhee - East Ayrshire Council

William McAlpine - Passenger Representative

Claire Baird - Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

Neil Learmonth - Police Scotland

Nigel Wallace

Juan Merrill CFO, GPA (via video link)

Kate Blackwood – Security Operations Manager, GPA

Apologies

George Smith

Duncan Townson

Ian Masterton

Anthony Gurney

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present.

2. Apologies

There were four apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the 218th Meeting held on 8th March 2024.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as read with the following amendment-

In relation to the 100ml rule **JM** stated that the non-implementation of the technology at Prestwick was not down to cost, but passenger numbers, which drove the requirement to use the technology. As GPA fell under the 1 million per annum passenger bracket there was no current need to install same.

4. Matters arising not elsewhere covered in the agenda.

BL informed the meeting that Cllr Anthony Gurney had stated that he was standing down from GPACC and would seek to find a replacement for North Ayrshire council. **BL** also informed the meeting that Douglas Kirkpatrick was no longer in post for Southwest Transport Partnership.

5. Chief Executives report

JM informed the meeting that the summer season was underway and to date load factors were slightly above expectations. Cargo figures were where they would be expected to be and on a positive note, there has been an increase in cargo clients. The A380 which arrived last month will be at Prestwick for a couple of months for line maintenance. Mention was made of the recent light aircraft crash on the environs of the airport, which caused the full airport response team to be stood up and from an airport perspective they found it an extremely useful learning experience. **NW** asked what the current passenger figures were passing through the airport on an annual basis. **JM** stated that the figure was around a ¼ million passengers. **JR** asked if the Ryanair winter schedule was known yet. **JM** responded that it was not yet known, but it would probably resemble last year's winter schedule. **RS** asked if the cold storage facility in the cargo sheds had developed any new business since its inception. **JM** stated it has been used and that the airport, Cargolux and Air France Cargo were actively marketing it as a service they could provide through Prestwick.

6. Glasgow Prestwick Airport GPACC website page

RS raised the issue of the GPACC website page contained within the GPA website not being updated and where it was, details were wrong, are being omitted and some minute topics are redacted in places. **JM** stated the airport have just launched a new website and he would take it back to the comms staff to ask why it is not being updated. In relation to the redactions **JM** said he would speak to Ian Forgie regarding it. **WMcA** raised a point about it being extremely difficult to find the GPACC page on the airport website. **JM** will look into this.

7. Spaceport

RS asked **JM** for an update on the Spaceport. He stated that it sits with Scottish Enterprise and South Ayrshire Council and with the impending upcoming elections, little will happen in the next couple of months. **BS** stated that he had searched on line prior to the meeting and there had been nothing published recently. He further stated there had been several reports submitted by South Ayrshire Council to the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee, but these are no longer visible for the public to see. He also made mention of the Magnata small satellite factory proposed for Monkton that had fell through recently. South Ayrshire Council put £29.4M into the project through the government back Ayrshire Growth Deal fund. Scottish Enterprise invested a further £54M in the deal. It is hoped that the monies are recoverable from Magnata and can be put back into the Ayrshire Growth Deal fund and redistributed towards the Spaceport build. **CB** stated that discussions were ongoing to repurpose the monies from Magnata. **HM** stated that the planned funding for Prestwick Transport Infrastructure to create an effective network of internal roads around Monkton to meet the needs of the growing aerospace sector, advanced manufacturing units, spaceport and launch operator infrastructure has been cancelled.

8. Increase in UKACC subscriptions

RS informed the group that the annual ACC fees had risen from £425 to £700. The fees are dictated by the throughput of the individual airport, with Prestwick in the lowest band. Future rises will be dictated annually by CPI.

9. UKACCs Annual Meeting 2024 - Thursday 14 & Friday 15 November 2024

It was agreed unanimously by the committee to send both Bob Smith and Bob Logan to this year's AGM in Leeds, due to them both being new in post and it being advantageous for them to meet the other airport chairs and secretaries.

10. GPACC vacancies

BL stated that several members in the past month have stood down from the committee and replacements will have to be found.

11. Which consumer group withdraws from ACC`s

Which announced only days before the meeting, that they were no longer going to be involved with ACC`s. After discussion, it was decided to continue to keep our two passenger reps, Richard Searle and William McAlpine, as it was recognised as an important role within the GPACC. It remains to be seen what other ACC`s decide to do, but there will no doubt be further discussion on this topic at the AGM in November.

12. AOCB

RS asked **JMcC** if requests had been sent out to the councils requesting annual subscriptions to GPACC. **JMcC** stated that it was due and he was working on it.

HM raised an issue with regards to drones flying in Monkton. **NL** explained the procedure to legally fly a drone within the Prestwick flight restriction zone was to get an incident number from Police Scotland and then to seek permission from Prestwick ATC.

NL gave an update re airport policing. Looking ahead to a busy period with the Open golf followed by the airshow in September. He stated that Gillian Watson was looking for volunteers for an upcoming exercise on the airfield on the 30th October. He highlighted the need for everyone to remain vigilant around the airfield in relation to protesters with the Open golf only a month away. There is now a dedicated aviation Procurator Fiscal depute and a site visit to Prestwick is scheduled in the coming week.

13. Action update

In relation to the noise complaints action, **JM** showed mapping of the area with dots representing where the complaints had been made from. He stated there had been 20 noise complaints in the last year, which were reasonably spread out with several of the complainers making more than one complaint. **CB** asked if that was an increase or decrease on the previous year`s figures. **JM** stated it was a reduction, down from 38, which was interesting considering the amount of crew training aircraft the airport has had this last twelve months.

In relation to the fly-tipping, **JM** stated that it was not within the airports land, and they would pass any instances on to the council. **BS** stated in relation to the

incident he had raised previously, a female had been identified and given a fine for fly-tipping.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is planned for Friday 6th September 2024 at 1400hrs.

ACTIONS

ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
Prepare a geographical depiction of noise complaints for the next meeting	Juan Merrill	COMPLETE
Ascertain if tree cutting and fly tipping issues have been actioned – Possible FOD issue	Juan Merrill	COMPLETE
Ascertain why GPACC webpage is not being updated and look at making GPACC more visible within it	Juan Merrill	31/07/24
Provide airport with updated list of GPACC members for the webpage	Bob Logan	31/07/24
Discuss vacancies within the GPACC	Bob Smith/Bob Logan	31/07/24
Request annual subscriptions from the 3 Ayrshire councils and Dumfries and Galloway.	Jim McCall	31/07/24