

COVENTRY AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 16:00 hours via
Microsoft Teams, Coventry Airport

Present:	Mr P Burns MBE (PB)	Chairman
	Mr Ron Walker (RW)	Based operator Midland Air Training and Airpark Flight Centre and vice-chairman of the CACC.
	Cllr Roger Horsfall (RH)	Baginton Parish Council
	Peter Jones (PJ)	Chairman Coventry Airport Tenants and Users Association (CATUA)
	Cllr Ram Lakha (RL)	Coventry City Council
	Mr John Astle (JA)	Stoneleigh & Ashow and Bubbenhall Parish Council
	Mr Alan Yates (AY)	Campaign to Protect Rural England

In Attendance from Coventry Airport:

Andy Hixon (AH)	Coventry Airport, Operations Accountable Manager
Richard Pace (RP)	Coventry Airport, Oversight Director
Paul Brown (PAB)	Coventry Airport, Manager Air Traffic Services
Tracy Sweeney (TS)	Quality System Manager (Scribe)

Absent/ Apologies:

Cllr Trevor Wright (TW)	Warwick District Council
Mr Larry Coltman (LC)	Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
Mrs Pamela Gainer (PG)	Coventry Trades Union

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1. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was declared open at 16:00 hours by the Chairman. The chairman thanked RP for the embargo information and was grateful for it prior to hearing it in the press.

2. Apologies:

Cllr Trevor Wright – Warwick District Council.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest:

There were no declarations of conflict of interest raised.

4. Minutes of meeting on 18th November 2020:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

5. Matters Arising:

None

6. Airport Update:

RP - The airport was forced to close once again due to the pandemic on the 5th January 2021 and did not reopen until 2nd March 2021. Majority of staff were put on furlough with only a few staff on site to maintain security. Aeros confirmed they wanted to operate again from the 2nd March and so measures were put in place to reopen safely Tuesdays to Saturdays.

RP - The airport was very busy and active prior to closing in January and hopefully it won't take long until it is at the levels again coming into spring.

RNAV Update – RP spoke with CAA with the scope to adjust the missed approach procedure but is still waiting feedback from them. No final decision has been made as to whether the application for RNAV will continue or not. Updates will be relayed as and when they arrive.

PB requested an update/ overview on the Gigafactory.

RP – Knowledge is limited due to not being directly involved with the discussions however what is known is that Coventry Airport is a proposed site for a potential Gigafactory development. It is a joint venture with Coventry City Council and Coventry Airport Ltd.

RP – Understands the tenants and users have to do what is best for their own businesses, there are leases in place and those cannot be broken without mutual agreement from both parties. Likely that no developments will be made on the airport site for 2 years and the airport will continue to operate as normal until a definitive decision has been made. The proposed site is not the only one in the country so it may not even get approved at Coventry Airport. Information will be relayed as and when it is known/ allowed to be passed on. Current risk is retaining staff.

RP- confirmed he is happy to attend the forthcoming Tenants and Users meeting.

RH – Talks about the factory being operational by 2025 considered optimistic.

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RP – An initial planning application has not been submitted yet, surveyors have been on site for that purpose, cannot see anything happening on the site for 2 years.

PJ – Personal proposal of having the Gigafactory as well as a small airstrip which would serve as a purpose for the Gigafactory.

RW – Can it be recorded that PJ proposal is an individual proposal and not a collective of the committee.

ALL – Committee want to see the airport remain as it currently operates.

RP – Will relay the feedback.

RL- The economic position has changed. The proposed development will create 4,000 job opportunities and the investment is welcome in the city.

7. Any Other Business:

RW – Every time there is situation/ announcement regarding the airport's future, it has a massive impact on the Airpark and Midlands Air Training business which is damaging as people are concerned regardless of whether it goes ahead or not. The damage is already done and very difficult to recover.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held in 3 months' time unless otherwise stated. Teams invite will be issued with confirmation date.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 17:05 hours.

Thank you for your attendance.