

## COVENTRY AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 16:00 hours  
via Microsoft Teams, Coventry Airport

<b>Present:</b>	Mr P Burns MBE (PB)	<b>Chairman</b>
	Mr Ron Walker (RW)	<b>Based operator Midland Air Training and Airpark Flight Centre and vice-chairman of the CACC.</b>
	Cllr Roger Horsfall (RH)	<b>Baginton Parish Council</b>
	Peter Jones (PJ)	<b>Chairman Coventry Airport Tenants and Users Association (CATUA)</b>
	Cllr Ram Lakha (RL)	<b>Coventry City Council</b>
	Mr John Astle (JA)	<b>Stoneleigh &amp; Ashow and Bubbenhall Parish Council</b>
	Cllr Trevor Wright (TW)	<b>Warwick District Council</b>
	Mr Alan Yates (AY)	<b>Campaign to Protect Rural England</b>
<b>In Attendance:</b>		
	Andy Hixon (AH)	<b>Coventry Airport, Operations Accountable Manager (Scribe)</b>
	Richard Pace (RP)	<b>Coventry Airport, Oversight Director</b>
<b>Absent:</b>		
	Paul Brown (PAB)	<b>Coventry Airport, Manager Air Traffic Services</b>
	Mr Larry Coltman (LC)	<b>Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce</b>
	Mrs Pamela Gainer (PG)	<b>Coventry Trades Union</b>

## **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

The meeting was declared open at 16:03 hours by the Chairman

## **2. Apologies:**

Paul Brown (PAB), Larry Coltman (LC), Pamela Gainer (PG)

## **3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest:**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest raised.

## **4. Minutes of meeting on 20 November 2018:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

## **5. Matters Arising:**

None

## **6. Airport Update:**

- Richard Pace updated the committee to recent changes at the Airport due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Coventry Airport closed on the 07/04/20 Resulting in the Majority of staff being furloughed with only a skeleton crew of six staying on to keep up maintenance checks.
- All fees for aircraft parking/hangarage and building rents were waived for April, May and June.
- Any flights essential for maintenance were permitted under indemnity and booked in.
- The airport commenced a phased plan to re-open in June starting with opening every Wednesday with Full FISO service and CAT 1 Fire service.
- Based tenants were asked what days were preferred to be open in July and feedback received was Tuesday – Saturday instead of Monday – Friday.
- Five members of staff were brought off furlough at the end of June to undertake competency training ready for re-opening on 1/07/2020 with Full FISO Service and CAT 1 Fire Service and dedicated Refuellers Tuesday – Saturday.
- Movements for July were 19% and August were 26% down on 2019
- Movements for September are expected to exceed September 2019 Movements.
- A grant has been received from the CAA to progress the RNAV project which was put on hold due to COVID-19.
- It is planned to increase the amount of based Aircraft permitted to fly under indemnity as of the 1/10/2020 to 6 Aircraft per hour.

PB - has received a letter questioning staff levels and opening times that were not discussed with tenants, why the Airport was not returning to a 7-day operation and downgrading would have happened as Rigby Group are losing interest in the Airport.

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- RP informed all that the Airport was still losing money under a seven day AFIS operation and COVID-19 had affected all group airports who are also struggling financially, Coventry Requires to be self-sufficient hence the Board decision to secure the future of Coventry airport with a five day operation for the foreseeable future.
- If demand is there, a 7 day operation would be considered but only when there is sufficient revenue to justify the additional costs.
- While consultations were taking place with staff it was not appropriate to consult with anyone outside the business with regards to redundancies.
- RW-not satisfied why a statement was not put out to update tenants and users.
- AY – Asked how long the lease from Coventry Council had left to run.
- PB - Believed it was a 99 year lease.
- RL – Confirmed it may be 120 years.
- TW – Airport is designated as green belt so would not be straightforward to change its use.
- PJ – Communication is important as tenants feel uncomfortable when not informed and question the future
- PJ- Request to the Rigby Group to guarantee the operation of the airport for the next 10 years.
- RP-there are lease obligations to keep the airport operating but will take request back to RG for their consideration.
- RI – Asked how many staff had been made redundant.
- RP – Will update as soon as process has been concluded.
- PB – Thanked RP for the update and explained they understood the issues and would appreciate updates to tenants no matter how small.
- RP – Will update at the end of the Month once process is over.

### **7. Any Other Business:**

- No other Business.

### **8. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 1600. Teams invite will be issued.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 17:06 hours.

Thank you for your attendance.