



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
Councillor B Barker (Bassetlaw District Council), A Bosmans (FODSA), P Cole (Office of Caroline Flint MP), L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise), S Gill (Robin Hood Airport), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor H McNamee (Doncaster MBC), K Naylor (Robin Hood Airport), P Nears (Peel Holdings (Management Ltd)), Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor L Bramall, Councillor R Franklin, Mayor R Jones, Councillor P Schofield, Councillor P Skelding and Councillor Y D Woodcock

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed Members to the ninth Annual General Meeting of Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield Consultative Committee.

An extended welcomed went to Peter Nears, Strategic Planning Director at Peel Holdings (Management) Ltd.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 January 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair informed the meeting that when considering the contents of his report on 2014, he thought that he would be commenting merely on a year of consolidation, rather as he had done so last year at 2013.

However, upon further reflection about the activity which had taken place during 2014, the Chair had realised that there were plenty of positives to reflect upon. There had been many developments, instead of being isolated events, which were beginning to hang together and set the Airport for a bright future. Furthermore, the Chair added

that it was a brave and significant move on the part of Peel to take back control of the Airport in 2013.

There had been some important and interesting developments during 2014, nationally and locally which the Chair wished to report upon:-

Airports Commission

In 2014, the outcome of the Airports Commission on the developments in the South East of the country became that bit closer and the final options were now appearing.

Future of Smaller Airports

The Commons Transport Select Committee had started to take a keen interest in the use of smaller Airports, and RHADS, along with others, had responded to the Committee's inquiry document. The Chair commented that this was a good sign, as politically, the strategic importance of smaller Airports was at last, being recognised and that the Airports' collective longer term sustainability is crucial to the UK economy.

Managing Noise

In May 2014, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had published a series of recommendations to help drive improvements in the way aviation manages aircraft noise, which the Authority was now discussing with the industry. One interesting recommendation included the potential for tax breaks for local people and businesses, as well as the potential for a future noise tax to incentivise airlines to procure and operate fleets in the most efficient fashion possible.

Air Passenger Duty (APD)

The unwelcome APD remained in place in 2014, and over 30 aviation, tourism and business groups joined together to press for the abolition of the tax. So far, progress had been limited and there was an increase charged from April.

The Chair commented that on a positive side, the announcement that APD on children's flights would be abolished was most welcome.

Department for Transport (DfT) Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees

Following a consultation, the DfT had issued a new set of guidelines for the conduct of Airport Consultative Committees. The RHADS ACC welcomed the proposals and agreed to review the RHADS Constitution accordingly. This has been carried out, and a revised version of the Constitution had been included as an item in the agenda for approval.

Local Developments

During the year, a number of important local developments started to come together.

There were signs that progress on the FARRRS link road was having an impact on airlines' thinking about the potential of the Airport. And on a recent visit, airline

representatives were flown over the development to see the progress; the reactions from the representatives were very positive.

Another very positive news story was published in late 2014 regarding the £10million development of the **Doncaster International Business Park**. The proposed design for 'Eco Pods' had been received with acclaim; and fitted well within the local environmental vision for the area.

Support from the **business community** increased during the year with the Sheffield City Region's Chairman expressing full support for Peel's vision for the Airport. An 'Advocacy Event' had been held to secure the support of local businesses; which had been well attended and many of these had agreed to become Advocates for the Airport.

Business leaders had seen the impact that RHADS could have on future trade, and with the introduction by airlines of more efficient aircraft, it was surely not beyond the realm of a possibility that RHADS will develop into a critical international point to point base.

During the year, the ACC saw some of the results of Steve Gill's and Chris Harcombe's hard work in marketing the Airport, which had resulted in increased flights to Riga, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Bucharest and other important destinations.

Overall, there was growth in **passenger numbers** and the outlook was good with around 10% growth forecast for the year ahead.

On the question of route development, the Airport had responded to a DfT consultation on how the Government should assess the need for start-up route development support for Airports with fewer than 5 million passengers a year.

Last year, the ACC had been pleased to note that, while passenger numbers were steady, **cargo traffic** had increased by 8% during 2013. In 2014, cargo activities continued to increase with 112% growth, with evidence of further opportunities in 2015. The Chair commented that this was a good news story and was very much in keeping with the Airport Director's vision in making the Airport a Centre of Logistics Excellence.

In December 2014, under Lorraine Daffern's leadership, the Airport achieved a **Doncaster Chamber Award** for its success in customer relations; and this was on top of being voted No 1 Airport again by the Which? Magazine.

From a **tourism** perspective, the Committee was involved in meetings between the Airport and representatives of the Pilgrim Fathers Origins Association, who were in the early planning stages of events which will culminate, (it is hoped) in a major event in 2020.

Similarly, contacts had been made with authorities in Lincoln who are leading the planning for this year's celebration of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta.

These events will have an impact on the marketing of the Airport.

The news that the **Vulcan to the Sky Trust (VTST)** is firming up its plans for the development of an Engineering Centre at the Airport was most welcome, and a briefing on the vision will be given on Friday 13 February, at 2pm in Hangar 3 at the Airport.

This news, coupled with the announcement about the new **Rail Academy** Project in Doncaster served to add to the good news story about the region.

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

The Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the Quiet Operations Policy. The number of complaints about aircraft noise during the year was limited, with just a few complainants' comments making up the bulk of the totals.

Members were reminded that each complaint is recorded and responded to by Kellie Naylor, whose arrival as the new Environmental and Communities Officer was welcomed during the year.

The Chair rounded-up his Annual Report by taking the opportunity to thank the Airport Director and his colleagues for the positive and constructive manner in which the relationship between the Committee and the Airport is conducted.

Thanks were also given to Andrew Shirt for his excellent support to the Chair personally, and to the Committee.

The Chair extended his sincere thanks to the Committee Members for their commitment and support.

2014 had been a good year with much to celebrate and the signs were there for an excellent year in 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman's Annual Report be noted.

4 ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: UPDATED CONSTITUTION

The Chair reminded Members that back in April 2014; the Department for Transport (DfT) had issued revised guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees.

It had been agreed that the RHADS ACC's original Constitution should be updated to reflect the new guidance.

The updated version of the Constitution was presented for Members' approval.

RESOLVED – That the Committee agrees to adopt the updated Constitution presented at today's meeting.

5 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A report of the Secretary was presented setting out the current membership of the Airport Consultative Committee and the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the current membership of the Airport Consultative Committee and Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

6 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015

RESOLVED – That the following schedule of meetings be agreed:-

Airport Consultative Committee

Thursday 15 January (AGM and Ordinary)
Thursday 16 April
Thursday 16 July
Thursday 15 October

Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

Thursday 19 March
Thursday 11 June
Thursday 17 September
Thursday 3 December

All meetings will commence at 10.00 am, in the Blenheim meeting room in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, unless stated otherwise.

CHAIR