

*Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of
INVERNESS AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE,
held in the Conference Room, on
Thursday 5th. December 2024.*

<u>Present:</u>	Mrs. Pat Hayden. Chairman	Passenger Rep.
	Graeme Bell.	Inverness Airport-General Manager.
	Cheryl Campbell.	Inverness Airport.
	Dan Mason.	Inverness Airport.
	Amanda Rennie.	AGS Assist/PRM Manager.
	Douglas Chisholm.	Highland Council.
	Margaret Fitzgerald.	Skytanking.
	Scott Treasurer.	Skytanking.
	Ina Davies.	Courtyard by Marriott.
	Stan Munro.	Secretary.

Pat extended a very warm welcome to members attending the meeting and to Douglas Chisholm , deputising for Neil Young. It was also good to have Margaret Fitzgerald representing Skytanking.

2. Apologies.

Angus MacDonald.	MP
Trish Robertson.	Highland Council.
Grant Campbell.	Prospect
Rebecca Wallace.	HITRANS.
Jenn Maylin.	Ardersier & Petty CC.
Paul Kelsall.	HIAL.
Wendy Harkess.	Easyjet.
Neil Young.	Highland Council.
James Birch.	BA.
Saul de sa Moreira.	BA.
Fergus Ewing.	MSP.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 12th. September 2024. The minute was unanimously approved.

4. UKACC Annual Conference. Pat had attended the meeting at Leeds/Bradford airport representing this committee. The airport is very much one for tourist travel and doesn't have flights to other UK Airports, so attending involved a flight to Manchester and then two train connections to arrive in Leeds.

Pat gave a most comprehensive report on all the sessions of the Conference and the speakers who had been invited to address Conference. Their addresses covered a wide range of topics over the two days, including Environmental Standards for the industry, Emission related issues and not decarbonising quickly enough, statistics showing the age spread of pilots, the proportion of female pilots, Airport Car Parking charges and the delayed introduction of the new Security Scanners .

Individual airports raised matters which concerned them too and it all formed the basis of an interesting meeting.

Pat was thanked for making the effort to attend and represent our interests.

5. Airport Management Report. Graeme, Cheryl and Dan gave the very detailed report, on the topics mentioned in the various slides in the Power Point presentation, responding to questions raised by members. It is heartening to see the airport and its staff acknowledged as evidenced by the ASQ awards.

The Power Point presentation is on slides 1-9 of the attached Appendix .

Ina asked if the Car Parking charges are to increase and this is being reviewed. The introduction of the new barrier system at the car parks is proving most beneficial.

Pat referred to the recent article in the press where a member of the airport staff won an award for developing AI software for training videos.

Pat also asked about the provision of Taxis and busses for late evening arrivals and Greame outlined the position, acknowledging that Stagecoach don't always run services to coincide with late evening flights.

Pat thanked Graeme and his team for their informative and full report

6. PRM Report. Amanda delivered the PRM report.

She confirmed that the transfer to OCS had gone very smoothly and everyone was very happy with the new regime: the company and the staff.

She highlighted the success of the Staxii chairs and more are going to be provided as a result of their usefulness. A second Ambi-lift is being sourced which will be most beneficial for PRM passengers.

The PRM Assist facility will also be beneficial when introduced.

Graeme acknowledged what a superb job Amanda and her team do to help PRM passengers. It is interesting to see how the service has developed and expanded.

Amanda's report is attached as slides 10-17 of Appendix 1

Pat thanked Amanda for her helpful report.

7. Operators Report.

Skytanking. It was good to have Scott attending the meeting. He outlined the change from Dalcross Handling to Skytanking and what the origins of the Skytanking had been. They are expanding as a company and in addition to the Inverness and Aberdeen operation which Scott oversees, the company is involved at Manchester and Stansted, are developing a service at Birmingham for KLM and have two European Airports, Eindhoven & Verona, where they provide the handling services

Scott is unlikely to be attending each meeting, but Margaret will represent the company.

Pat asked why on a recent flight to Inverness, the second Avi-ramp hadn't been used. Scott suggested that would only have been the case if the ramp was out of action. The staff prefer using the ramp for the convenience and safety of passengers.

Pat thanked Scott and Margaret for their interesting report.

8. A.O.C.B. Ina was delighted to confirm that a new 3-year contract had been signed with easyJet for crew members.

She also referred to the proposed Tourism Levy and outlined the concerns of those in the industry. A consultation on this, organised by Highland Council has started, but she hoped that the consultation would be a true and meaningful one. Initially it had been anticipated that it would be a flat rate levy, but it seems it could now be as a percentage of the overall bill, maybe 5% plus VAT. Concern was also expressed about how this might affect NHS patients and the cost to the Health Service.

Douglas gave his perspective on behalf of the Council and an interesting discussion followed.

Pat was sure this topic will be raised again in the future.

Pat pointed out that Ian Booth had resigned as the Nairn Access Panel member and Amanda will see if a replacement can be suggested, someone who uses the airport.

Pat also noted that as a committee we no longer have an ABTA representative, so Graeme is going to look into this and see if a suitable person can be found.

Douglas pointed out that Inverness Castle will be re-opening next year and it is hoped it will prove to be an attractive venue for tourists to come to the area.

8. Date of Next Meeting. It was agreed that our next meeting would take place on **Thursday 13th. March 2025 at 11 am.**

Pat closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussions.