

FURNEAUX GROUP AVIATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE Unconfirmed Minutes

DATE: Thursday 29th January 2015
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 2pm

PRESENT:

Mayor Carol Cox	Chair
Cr P Rhodes	Council
Cr K Stockton	Council
Noel Bowland	RPT Operator
Greg Dempster	Flinders Island Tourism & Business Assoc.
Denise Gardner	Cape Barren Island
Jeff Grace	Airport Manager
Tessa Bird	Dept. State Growth (via phone)
Gordon Rorison	Charter Aircraft
Vacant	Community Representative

APOLOGIES:

John Loudon

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Sophie Pitchford	Acting General Manager
Vicki Warden	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Jeff Grace Seconded: Greg Dempster
That the minutes from the meeting held on the 26th August 2014 are a true record.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE IN

2014.08.25	Supporting information for nomination – Alan Stackhouse
2014.09.29	Change of Department of State Growth Representative
2014.11.24	Preliminary Draft Master Plan - Launceston Airport
2014.12.06	Application for Community Representative - Linda Nichol

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

2014.08.28	Acknowledgement of receipt of supporting information for nomination – Alan Stackhouse
2014.08.28	Acknowledgement of receipt of supporting information for nomination – Ken Stockton

2014.08.28 Acknowledgement of nomination – Michael Buck
2014.09.22 Ratification of appointment as Community Representative – Ken Stockton
2014.12.06 Executive Officer response – Linda Nicol
2014.11.25 Launceston Master Plan – emailed from Executive Officer
2014/12/04 Island News advertisement for Community Representative (post-election)

Moved: Cr Peter Rhodes Seconded: Noel Bowland
That the correspondence in and out be noted.

CARRIED

AGENDA

Item 1: Department of State Growth Representative

The committee welcomed Tessa Bird as the new Department of State Growth Representative.

Item 2: Consideration of Linda Nicol as Community Representative

The community representative position held by Ken Stockton was made vacant by his election as a Councillor. The vacant position was advertised in the 4th December 2014 Island News and a nomination from Linda Nicol was received.

Moved: Cr Ken Stockton Seconded: Cr Peter Rhodes
That the Committee recommends to Council that the nomination of Linda Nicol be accepted as the Community Representative on the Committee.

CARRIED

Action: The Chair to put nomination to Council.

Item 3: Submissions

The committee noted that the request for submissions was advertised in the 9th October 2014 Island News and no submissions were received.

Item 4: Current Project Update

An update on the apron project at the Whitemark Airport was provided by the Acting General Manager and the Airport Manager:

The commencement of the apron extension works depends on the arrival of the aggregate on the island. The aggregate is expected to arrive on 24th February however this date is yet to be confirmed. The delivery date will depend on how quickly the quarry can crush the rock and the height of the tides. Stornoway is the successful contractor. We expect to start the apron works in early March. We will keep the public informed via Island News and householder as to when the barge will arrive. The Federal Government has been patient with the extended time taken and the grant payments will occur once milestones are reached. Foreseen potential problems with delivery of the aggregate are weather and

the timely availability of the aggregate to fill the barge. The weather could also affect the sealing of the apron.

Item 5: Launceston Airport Master Plan

Submissions on the Launceston Airport Master Plan are due 30th January 2015 (tomorrow). The Mayor has received complaints from residents trying to access the Launceston Sharp terminal. Passengers with small children, lots of luggage, mobility or medical issues need to be able to gain direct access to the terminal. Reports include: Passengers are finding it confusing and don't know how to get to the Sharp terminal due to lack of signage. Some annual parking cards aren't permitting access to the undercover park and some swipe cards are not working and have to be updated prior to leaving airport. Also an incident when the car park was full entry was denied. Please send complaints directly to Paul Hodgen.

Carol has reported these issues to Paul Hodgen, General Manager of Launceston Airport, and is meeting with him on the 12th February. Carol has asked him to draft something for Island News to inform passengers on how to access the terminal. Launceston Airport believes it's up to Sharp to communicate parking arrangements to card holders but Sharp don't know who they are.

Noel reported that passengers need to go through 2 gates to access the terminal - get parking ticket at first gate, put it in the second gate, drive to the terminal to drop off, and then park. The ticket will give you 10 mins free. The airport did encounter some software issues with the car park full indicators, which have now been rectified.

When card holders were issued with new passes on exiting the Airport, staff noted that many of the drivers didn't know the name of the card holder or the rego number of the vehicle. Airport staff assumed this meant that cards were being abused and being transferred between users. They are now looking at number plate recognition and will ask drivers for the car's rego number.

Gordon reported that there is no provision for Charter operators to gain access to the airport other than by calling security to open up the Aero Club and they are not often available.

Action: Carol to send a brief submission on the Launceston Airport Master Plan saying that as we are a community that has to fly rather than one that chooses to fly, we would like consideration to be given to the drop off point and ease of access for passengers and trucks at the Sharp terminal.

Item 6: Update on Airport Business Plan

The Acting General Manager gave an update on the progress of the Airport Business Plan:

The Business Plan is currently at a standstill as the consultant has been working tirelessly on the apron project which has a higher priority. However preliminary indications to date on the ideas put forward for generating income are as follows:

- Storage sheds are viable
- Short term parking not viable
- Long term viable
- Fuel highly risky and not recommended
- Hangars are work-in-progress with a low level of expressions of interest.

This item will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Item 5: Flinders Airport Car Parking

A request has been received from a rate payer to consider moving hire car parking spots at Flinders Airport to free up the area for short term parking. The request came from a resident who has a partner with mobility issues who has difficulty walking any distance.

Two disabled car parks are located directly opposite the terminal entrance and these are monitored by the police. The Airport Master Plan designated the hire car parking in the current location. Cars are being left in the hire car parks for extended periods of time, stopping other hire car owners from using the parks to pick up passengers. The best way to deal with the hire car parks is to charge for them. A letter is being sent out today to hire car owners giving them the option of paid parking.

The angle parking on the opposite side of the entrance is being used for long term parking. Council is considering making this area a 2 hour short term parking area and everywhere else long term parking. The only way to control this would be to introduce a bylaw. In the interim, maybe staff could put a polite notice on wind screens if cars are parked too long.

Action: Mayor to promote the location of the disabled parks and the use of angled parks for 2 hour short term parking and everywhere else as long term parking in Island News.

Item 6: Other Business

There was no other business.

Meeting Closed 2.34pm

Next meeting: In 3 months unless the Airport Business Plan comes out earlier.