

Islay & Jura Transport Group

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 30th October 2019 at 10.40am in Fire Station at Islay Airport

Meeting commenced at 1045am.

Present: Jim Porteous (JP) ICC; Rachel Whyte (RW) ICC; Niall Colthart (NC) HIAL; Maureen Mackinnon (MMK) Transport User; Pat McGrann (PMG) ICC; Mike Senior (MS) Seniors Forum; Ian Ritchie (IR) Loganair; Belinda McKim (BMK) HIAL

Apologies for absence: Anne Horn A&B Councillor, Jura Community Council; Michael Donnelly (MD) Ileach; Martin Arnold A&BC; Marta Zawadzka (MZ) A&BC;

1. Welcome and apologies: JP (Convener) warmly welcomed those present paying particular thanks to NC for his generous hospitality. Special thanks also to IR for making time to come over to meet with us.

Apologies for non-attendance at this meeting were received and have been noted above.

2. NC asked if ICC could “put pressure” on A&B Councillors to attend meetings. It was noted that Councillor Horn had attended many I&JTG meetings however Councillor Currie has not attended for some considerable time and Councillor Redman has not attended any meetings this year. **JP will write to request their presence.**

3. JP spoke of short notice of Edinburgh flight withdrawal, only in operation for five months and to be pulled was most disappointing. He acknowledged that air traffic control dispute had put serious pressure on services and costs.

4. Ian Ritchie apologised for not attending last meeting due to cancelled/late flight. He acknowledged that they “had dropped a complete clanger” in putting it in paper before notifying I&JTG. He apologised for this oversight. IR explained that directors of Loganair were very disappointed in the Ileach article which they felt contained many inaccuracies. Financial performance was way below expectations and no amount of consultations could have saved the new service.

JP asked **if Edinburgh route could return in future if conditions were to improve ?**

NC enquired for statistics of route.

PMG stated his disappointment of lack of consultation.

JP made the point that CalMac uses projections which are hugely important for future planning. He advised that the Ferry Committee engaged closely with Calmac in this connection and provided information to assist the decision-making process in terms of capacity and service. **IJTG would welcome the opportunity to work with Loganair on similar lines if this would be considered helpful.**

IR stated that Loganair would look at revival in the future of Edinburgh route if they saw demand but certainly not at present. When it was pulled, Edinburgh flight was at 52% capacity which was at least 10% short of financial viability.

BMK **noted** the good timing of Edinburgh flight to Islay. Passengers often came in from Edinburgh and left on Glasgow flight due to timing.

Some members of the community were unaware of Edinburgh flights- and this was thought to be due to lack of advertising and promotion. JP suggested that again closer dialogue would help to identify any such issues and better inform our public. IR expressed surprise about lack of awareness of the Edinburgh service.

NC explained how he had offered Loganair to advertise Edinburgh flight through social media, press etc.....he got no reply.

Code Share - other airlines put their code share onto Loganair flights.

Baggage allowance has been reduced from 20Kg to 15Kg.

Advert in Ileach to let public know about baggage change ?

Combination of flight & whisky/golf is not being taken up due to high cost. NC suggested looking at cheaper suppliers. If the status quo is not working then this would be a solution. **IR to revert with different providers.**

New ATR aircraft would be joining Loganair's fleet from November. These will eventually replace the current Saab on the Islay route. The new aircraft has 16 more seats and higher crosswind threshold.

JP asked IR about NHS passenger issues. IR assured group that these have been addressed. **Any future problems to be reported to IR for investigation.**

DRAFT minutes cont'd

5. Niall Colthart has issues with Ileach quote.

To say "No consultation with HIAL" is wrong. There was!

To be quoted as saying only knowing about Edinburgh flight withdrawal when he read it in Ileach was wrong. NC had privileged and confidential notification from Loganair some days beforehand.

JP said he regretted any embarrassment caused and hoped that the good relationship can continue and we can put this behind us. Emotions had been running high in the community at the time and many had been pressing for the matter to be raised as strongly as possible.

6. RW requested that baggage change rules can be put onto Islay Community Facebook page. **RW to organise.**

7. MA sent email to say Charlotte Street bus shelter will be completed by end of 2019.

MA noted Kilarrow bus shelter will stay on list for next year.

8. Survey on public transport on Islay has been commissioned. **RW to forward to MS and MMK.**

9. Jura CC apologised for not coming due to poor ferry times.

AOCB

RW had a complaint from a member of the public regarding a CLKV haulage container parked on airport grounds. NC confirmed this was now a police matter and would be moved within hours.

New distillery advertised in Ileach. Airport is a Statutory Consultee and would reply appropriately.

Summary of actions: For ease of reference these are highlighted in **red bold**.

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 11th December in Islay Airport at 10.40am.