



# MINUTES

of a meeting held on

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 11.15am

in the Town Hall Welshpool

## Attendance

The following were present:

Cllr Trevor Roberts	West Coast 250 & Chair
Robert Robinson	Welshpool Town Council & Secretary
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Roger Whitehouse	Tallylyn Railway
Cllr Dylan Lewis	Aberystwyth Town Council/Rail Focus
Ivor Morris	S A R P A

## Apologies

The following apologies for absence were received:

Cllr Malcolm Douglass	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr Eryl Jones-Williams	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr Ray Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Chris Wilson	Ceredigion County Council

### 1. Attendance

The attendance at the meeting was poor; this is partly due to apologies received and also due to information not reaching every member. This may be partly due to changes in membership due to the elections. The secretary will research.

### 2. Elections

The elections were deferred to the September 2017 meeting.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.



#### **4. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

#### **5. Financial Report**

The secretary gave a financial report including confirmation that both Shropshire and Ceredigion Councils have paid £250 each towards the work of the Committee. Powys County Council again has not responded.

#### **6. Actions taken since the last meeting**

The Committee was updated on the actions taken since the last meeting:

##### **Survey work on the trains.**

The first stage of the latest survey has been completed. The Secretary outlined the general results to date as follows:

The figures of passengers do not support more than a four car service from Shrewsbury to Machynlleth.

There is clear evidence that a four car unit is required to continue into Aberystwyth.

There will be a need to consider demand v through trains when the full survey work is completed.

The satisfaction survey has been completed with the average level slightly lower than in the last two surveys.

Further survey work is being carried out during July and August after the schools have broken up for the summer holidays.

The focus groups along the main line are completed with the coast line focus groups being arranged.



## **7. Through Services to Birmingham International**

The Minister has confirmed in writing that all existing through services and existing service levels will be maintained in the new Franchise.

## **8. Carno Station**

The Secretary has met with the Carno Action Group at a Focus Group Meeting in Caersws. To aid the situation the Secretary has formally written to the Ministers office seeking a clear answer on whether they are going to support the re-opening of Carno Station or not. A reply is awaited.

## **9. Guards on trains**

The Secretary reported that the Ministers Office has confirmed that they are not planning to remove guards from trains on the Cambrian Lines.

## **10. Reports**

There were no representatives from Arriva Trains Wales, Network Rail or the British Transport Police.

A written report had been received from Chris Wilson regarding the Cambrian Rail Partnership.

## **11. Matters from members**

The following matters were raised by members:

- i) It was noted that the timetable with regards to the last train into and out of Machynlleth had been sorted.
- ii) The four station shelters are understood to have arrived but have not yet been fitted in their locations at Welshpool, Dovey Junction, Llanbetr and Machynlleth.



- iii) Train booklets and timetables – there are connecting trains missing from the timetable books issued including some of the services along the Cambrian Line. The Secretary is to take this up with the new Cambrian Partnership employee.
- iv) Station signage at Birmingham is still not operating properly.
- v) Concern was again expressed over the new on train ticket machines and the resultant loss of revenue. The tickets are also causing issues such as group issues (not a single ticket but individual) and the lack of ability to issue cross London tickets. The mobile phone signal also drops in and out regularly affecting the performance of the ticket machines.

## **12. Welshpool Town and Community Plan 2017-2022**

The meeting considered the proposed plan as it relates to the main line. The plan as drafted is supported by the Committee.

## **13. Thanks**

The Chair asked the secretary to record the Committees thanks for all his work and to pass on such thanks to his team.

## **14. Dates of meetings for 2017**

The Committee confirmed the dates for meetings in 2017 as follows:

### **Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

All meetings are to be held at Welshpool Town Hall at 11.15am



### Joint meetings with Coast Line

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (note this meeting is cancelled)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

All meetings are to be held in Machynlleth at 11.15am

### 15. Action to be taken forward:

The following actions are to be taken forward:

- a) Investigate and issued invitations to the next meeting seeking out newly elected members names and addresses.
- b) To chase up attendance of Arriva Trains Wales and Network Rail for the next meeting.
- c) To cancel the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 joint meeting.
- d) To complete survey work and report to the next meeting.
- e) To chase up Carno Station response from Welsh Government.
- f) To seek a meeting with the new Cambrian Partnership Officer to sort out booklet timetable information.
- g) To seek remedial works to information systems on platforms and trains.
- h) To seek out the position regarding the installation of the new shelters.