

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting held on
Friday 14th October 2016 at 11.15am
in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall **Welshpool**

1. Present were

| Name | Representing |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Clr Trevor Roberts | Chair & West Coast 250 |
| K Anderson | British Transport Police |
| Rhydian Mason | Cambrian Rail Partnership |
| Clr Eryl Jones-Williams | Gwynedd County Council |
| Mair Benjamin | Aberystwyth Town Council |
| Angus Eickoff | S.A.R.P.A. |
| Roger Whitehouse | Tallylyn Railway |
| D Woodhouse | Tourism |
| Dylan Lewis | Rail Future Wales |
| Ann Ellis | Ceredigion County Council |
| Robert Robinson | Secretary and Welshpool TC |

2. Apologies were received from

| Name | Representing |
|----------------|--|
| Ben Davies | Arriva Trains Wales |
| Clr R Quant | Ceredigion County Council |
| Clr M Williams | Machynlleth Town Council and Powys County Council |

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting of this Committee subject to the following notes:

- i) Arriva Trains (Wales) confirmed that there are no plans to remove guards/train conductors from any of their services.
- ii) There was concern over the possible lack of a Welsh Government Rolling Stock Policy. A copy of such policy is to be sought.

3. Financial Report

The meeting considered a short financial report. Ceredigion and Shropshire Councils are still supportive. However, Powys County Council still is not providing any support.

Ann is to take this up for the Committee.

4. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting received an update on actions taken since the last meeting (which are not on the agenda):

- i) The web site is kept up to date.
- ii) The meeting was informed of Val Graul's situation. A card of thanks to be sent.
- iii) Ffion Davies of Welshpool Town Council will be supporting the Committee with the Secretary in the future.

6. Report on Welsh Government Meeting

The meeting with Welsh Government was due on 6th October but has been deferred until 27th October. The executive team will report back at the 25th November meeting at Machynlleth.

7. Matters of importance on the line

To consider the following matters:

i) Infrastructure at Machynlleth Station

The lifts are still not operational and are awaiting them being added to the Network Rail Asset List. There are some trains stopping at the up platform making it difficult for people without the lifts in operation.

ii) Caersws station car parking.

The provision of car parking is progressing slowly.

iii) Further investment at Welshpool Station.

The car park is open with the lease still outstanding.

The second shelter is progressing.

The disabled access proposals are a longer term aim.

iv) Rail Ticket Sales – Tourist Information Office Welshpool.

Rail Ticket sales are up and running and doing well.

v) Stopping train on Coast Line.

The last train from Machynlleth is now stopping at all stations.

vi) Last Train up the Coast from Machynlleth

The last train along the coast (on the official timetable) shows an hours wait which was not considered acceptable. (previously the wait was 45 minutes). There are some passengers who manage to catch the last train waiting only a few minutes (if they miss the train, which is not scheduled as a connection they would be stranded). The matter will be raised with the Ministers Office.

8. Rail Reports

8.1 Arriva Trains Wales

No rail report for this meeting. Ben Davies will be attending the Joint Meeting in Machynlleth on 25th November.

8.2 Cambrian Rail Partnership

Rhydian Mason gave his report with the following of note:

- i) New facilities to arrive soon partly due to surveys carried out by this Committee.
- ii) Work continues on promoting the line.

A copy of the full report is on the web site.

8.3 Network Rail

The meeting received the written report from Network Rail. The meeting noted the dates for track work.

8.4 British Transport Police

The Police were present and presented their report. The following points were of note:

- I) Crime levels are very low and have fallen over the past few years.
- II) CCTV has played a good part in detection.
- III) CCTV at Welshpool would be welcomed.
- IV) There is a report on issues at Aberystwyth which is being followed up – the Police will issue details to the Committee when they are known.
- V) Some minor issues on the last train (particularly Saturdays) from Aberystwyth and Newtown.

- VI) Issue of cars parking obstructing barriers at Caersws has been addressed with new signage.
- VII) Warning of pick pockets moving into area from Wrexham, noted.

9. Carno and Bow Street Station re-opening

The meeting received an update as follows:

Carno

The Carno Action Group is still working towards a re-opening with little progress to date.

Bow Street

The proposal to re-open this stage is progressing with it being a full interchange with park and ride facilities.

10. Future Plan for Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Committee

The meeting considered the Travel Plan as issued in May 2016.

The final version is attached to these minutes.

The final version is to be posted on the web site for comments by 24th November so that the plan can be adopted at the meeting to be held on 25th November in Machynlleth.

The documents sets out the policy and aims of the Committee.

11. Franchise

The meeting noted the four front runners for the new Franchise for Wales and Borders as follows:

§ **Abellio** operates buses in London and ScotRail services, as well as buses, trains and trams in Holland and Germany.

§ **KeolisAmey** runs the Docklands Light Railway and London and Nottingham's trams. It claims to be the world's largest tram operator and its major shareholder is the French state-owned railway company SNCF.

§ **MTR** operates the Hong Kong metro, the Crossrail/Elizabeth Line concession and is currently running Transport for London rail services.

§ **Arriva** is part of German-owned Deutsche Bahn (DB). It was awarded the all-Wales rail franchise in 2003.

have a good weekend especially your visit to Leicester.

The meeting agreed that the secretary should arrange for members to meet all four rail companies at Welshpool Town Hall over the coming two months.

12. Arriva Trains Performance

The meeting discussed the performance of Arriva Trains Wales on both the main and coast lines. Concern was expressed about the cancellation of trains on both lines.

The matter will be on the agenda with the Ministers Office.

13. Date of next meeting

The meeting noted the date of the next meeting

Friday 25th November 2016 at Y Plas Machynlleth
 Joint meeting with Cambrian Coast Conference

14. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

| Ref | Item | By who |
|-----|--|--------|
| 1 | Meetings to be arranged with franchise companies as noted in minutes | Robert |
| 2 | List of franchise company interest to be passed to Robert | Trevor |
| 3 | Matters of concern in minutes to be raised at meeting with Ministers Officer | Robert |
| 4 | Post Travel Plan on web site for comment | Robert |
| 5 | CCTV for Welshpool Station to be taken forward. | Robert |
| 6 | Gain Welsh Government Rolling Stock Policy | Robert |
| 7 | Card for Val. | Robert |