

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
With
CAMBRIAN COST CONFERENCE

MINUTES

Of the Joint Cambrian Lines Meeting held
on Friday 18th September 2015 at 12.30pm
Town Councils Offices 11 Baker Street Aberystwyth

Present were

Cllr T Roberts Chair	Barmouth Town Council
Robert Robinson Secretary	Welshpool Town Council
Rhydian Mason	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Selwyn Runnett	Office of William Powell AM
Ben Davis	Arriva Trains Wales
David Crunkhorn	Arriva Trains Wales
Philip Caldwell	Arriva Trains Wales
Sarah Taylor	Aberystwyth University
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Ann Lloyd Jones	Ceredigion County Council
Philip Sayers	Talyllyn Railway
Roger Whitehouse	Talyllyn Railway
Dylan Lewis	Rail Future/Trans Link Cymru
Roger Goodhew	SARPA
Cllr R White	Newtown Town Council
D Woodhouse	Aberdovey Town Tourism
Ann Ellias	Gwynedd, Powys, Ceredigion Transport
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Mair Benjamin	Aberystwyth Town council
Cllr Peter Adams	Shropshire Council
Cllr Jeff Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council

Apologies were received from

Angus Eikoff	SARPA
Cllr M Williams	PCC and Machynlleth Town Council
Cllr Eryl Jones Williams	Gwynedd County Council
Joyce Watson	Assembly Member
Rhian Wyn Williams	Integrated Transport Unit
Cllr Eirwyn Williams	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr Angela Ann Russell	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr Selwyn Griffiths	Chair Cambrian Coast Conference

Cllr Annwen Hughes	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr John Brynmore Hughes	Gwynedd County Council
Dafydd Ellis Thomas	Assembly Member
Rebecca Evans	Assembly Member
Russell George	Assembly Member
Glyn Davies	Montgomeryshire MP
Simon Pickering	Welsh Government
Karen Williams	Network Rail
Jeremy Barnes	Carno Station Action Group
Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Community Council

Before the meeting formally started a DVD was presented by the Cambrian Rail Partnership.
The DVD can be found on utube.

1. Introductions and Register of Attendance

The members attending introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting of this Committee.

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting receive an update on actions taken since the last meeting as follows:

LDP (letters to Principle Councils)

Letters had been sent to the principle Councils asking them to consider retaining land adjacent to and in use for railways to be noted in the LDP as for that use.

Franchise Document

The franchise document is completed and ready for submission in due course.

4. Rail Reports

4.1 Arriva Trains Wales

A full report was given by Arriva Trains Wales. The railways in Wales are among the few who met their targets. There is an increase in usage of the Cambrian Lines and in due course the actual increases can be calculated.

The stock situation was also explained. It was noted that some passengers have changed the rail services they use to those who link up with other trains at Shrewsbury.

It was suggested that the following actions be taken by the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee:

- a) Seek funding from the Minister for a second shelter at Welshpool Station.
- b) Ask the Welsh Government for an All Wales Rail Strategy.

Ben Davies made when asked about the 1900 ex Machynlleth to Pwllheli stopping pattern. He said that the timetable drawn up by Cllr T. Roberts to change the stopping pattern was now acceptable but there was an extra member of staff required and that this matter had now been sent back to the Welsh Government to consider.

4.2 Cambrian Rail Partnership

The Cambrian Rail Partnership has presented the film earlier in the meeting.

The Cambrian Railways Partnership, along with Arriva Trains Wales are hoping to highlight the importance of schemes such as the Orange Wallet scheme in order to make them more widely available and more widely publicised

4.3 Network Rail

No report or representative present.

4.4 British Transport Police

No report or representative present.

5. Consultation and Franchise 2018

The meeting received an update on the Franchise arrangements for 2018.

6. Report on new rail service to start on 18th May 2015

A report was given on each of the following:

i) New Timetable

The new timetable was reviewed and comments received.

ii) Marketing and promotion

The meeting considered the marketing and promotion of the line.

iii) Survey October 2015

The secretary give a report on the survey being carried out in October including the Focus Groups, on train surveys and report to the Minister. This is being administered by Welshpool Town Council on behalf of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee funded by the Welsh Government.

Volunteers are already in place to cover the main lines.

There will be three days covering all trains in October.

There are also focus groups in Welshpool, Newtown, Caersws, Machynlleth, Aberystwyth, Tywyn, Barmouth and Porthmadog.

7. Station and infrastructure

The meeting received a report on the following:

i) Welshpool station car park

The secretary reported on the Welshpool Station Car Park and its progress. The start date is now 24th September with completion by the 14th October 2015.

ii) Town Bus Service for Welshpool

The Town Bus Service is to continue, there is still resistance from Powys County Council to even think about it stopping there. Pressure is still being applied to change this view.

iii) Machynlleth station works

The car park works are still to go ahead, the current idea of programme is that completion maybe sometime next year.

The installation of lifts should be completed by no later than December 2015.

iv) **Caersws Station**

The Chair is in contact with the Community Council and a meeting with the Minister is arranged. The proposal is to increase the car parking provision at the station which has much increased usage.

8. Carno Station

The meeting received an update including a sketch of timetable proposals. The business case has yet to be approved by the Minister. The meeting considered the Policy of the Join Cambrian Line and the following was approved:

'The formal policy is that the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee supports the re-opening of stations on the main line provided they are underwritten by a robust business case and provided any new facility does not significantly affect the enhanced train service to be introduced in May 2015 or prevent the subsequent introduction of a full hourly service also taking into consideration existing connections at Shrewsbury.'

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Friday 13th November 2015 in Machynlleth at 11.15am. This is to be a join meeting. At this meeting there is to be a presentation on the results of the survey carried out in October.