

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Of a meeting held on

on **Friday 12th February 2016** at **11.15 am**

in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall **Welshpool**

Record of attendance:

Present were	Apologies were received from
Cllr T Roberts Chair Barmouth Town Council	Cllr S Griffiths
Cllr M Williams Vice Chair Powys County Council	Angus Eickhoff SARPA
Robert Robinson Secretary Welshpool Town Council	
D Ellis-Thomas AM Merionnydd	
R Mason Cambrian Rail Partnership	
Ben Davies Arriva Trains Wales	
Cllr Ray Quant Ceredigion CC	
Cllr E Jones-Williams Gwynedd CC	
Cllr M Benjamin Aberystwyth TC	
Cllr J Smith Aberystwyth TC	
A Wallbank Caersws CC	
P Addams Shropshire Council	
Cllr R White Newtown TC	
David Taylor Rail Future	
Cllr J Barnes Carno CC	
D Woodhouse Aber/Tywyn Tourism	
R M Whitehouse Tallylyn Railway	

NOTE: It was agreed that the Secretary will write by email to Cllr S Griffiths about a submission of a consultation form from the Cambrian Coast Conference. A copy of the responses from this meeting is to be included in that email. The document presentation is to be submitted as discussed at the join meeting and is a joint submission.

1. Mansell Williams

The meeting received a report on the health of Mansell. The Meeting also **AGREED** to alter the constitution to allow the appointment of a president.

The meeting further **AGREED** to appoint Mansell Williams as the President.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting of this Committee with one alteration to a name.

3. Elections

The Elections for the officers were held with the following appointed:

Chair	Cllr Trevor Roberts
Vice Chair	Cllr Michael Williams
Secretary	Robert Robinson

4. Cambrian Rail Survey

The meeting received a report on the following:

- i) The final copy of the survey report as presented to the Minister.
- ii) To receive a report on the meeting with the Minister on 11th January 2016.

The points of note were:

- a) Welshpool Town Council has agreed to continue with administration support in the future to ensure sustainability for the Committee with its links with the industry and Welsh Government.
- b) The surveys will continue on a regular basis starting in July/August 2016.

The full survey results are to be posted on the web site after the meeting.

A meeting with the Minister before the elections is to be sought and also a meeting with the new Minister after the elections.

5. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting received an update on the actions taken since the last meeting which were:

- i) The completion of the rail survey
- ii) Visit to the Minister
- iii) Completion of the Welshpool Station Car Park

6. Visit on site by Welsh Government

The Chair had met with Officers of the Welsh Government on a tour of the line with various improvements discussed including extension of shelter provision and lift access at Welshpool, signage at Newtown, car parking at Caersws etc.

7. Infrastructure on the line

- i) Machynlleth Station**
Lifts and bridge almost complete, some concern over access if lifts fail. Car parking provision with a bus turning circle taking its course.
- ii) Caersws station car parking.**
A new site for car parking has been identified and investigations are progressing.
- iii) Shrewsbury Station staff.**
The Secretary will pass emails sent later year on the matter to Ben Davies for information.
- iv) Further investment at Welshpool Station.**
The addition of further shelters, lift access and litter bins (by the Town Council).
- v) Rail Ticket Sales – Tourist Information Office Welshpool.**
It was confirmed that the business at Newtown has been purchased and will continue. Welshpool Tourist Information Office will sell rail tickets from just after Easter.
- vi) Holiday trains on the coast line.**
The provision of holiday trains was noted.
- vii) Newtown**
Signage to be improved.

8. Rail Reports

Reports were received as follows:

8.1 Arriva Trains Wales

The following points were made:

- a) Performance of the line continues to improve with very good indicators.
- b) The toilets on the trains are to be refurbished with new pans in the next few months; further refurbishment will take place over the next few years.
- c) ATW offered its support for the survey planned for July/August.
- d) The driver's dispute has been resolved.
- e) Support the Machynlleth Comedy Festival continues with the event being a good part of the Mid Wales Calendar of events.
- f) The indicators show:

2005	80% of trains were on time
2015	92.8% of trains were on time
- g) There is a need for more trains within the new franchise; this issue needs to be addressed early.

The report will be posted on the Web Site in due course.

8.2 Cambrian Rail Partnership

The following points were made:

- a) The rail film has been put up for another award.
- b) The orange wallet scheme is still being rolled out.
- c) There are discussions to location at Aberystwyth a Shop-ability base for those using mobility scooters.
- d) The focus over the next few months will be on Tourism with two new brochures planned.

The report will be posted on the Web Site in due course.

8.3 Network Rail

There was not Network Rail Report.

8.4 British Transport Police

There was no British Transport Police Report.

9. Consultation and Franchise 2018

The meeting considered the following:

Rail Franchise Consultation by Welsh Government
Rail Franchise Presentation Document prepared last Autumn

Both documents were discussed in detail and were approved with alterations as per the attached. Both documents are to be posted on the web site.

10. Carno Station

The meeting received an update as follows:

- a) Timetables have been submitted and further versions have been issued to Welsh Government. These show how a service can be provided within the existing timetabled trains.
- b) The crossing points near Talerddig were of concern as there appears to be budget issues.
- c) Matters continue with regard to the possible re-opening of the station.

11. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting as:

Friday 13th May 2016 at 11.15am in Welshpool Town Hall

12. Press Release

The meeting **AGREED** that a press release should be issued following the meeting. The press release is to be prepared by the Secretary and approved by the Chair.

13. Actions taken forward:

The following actions are being taken forward:

- i) The survey for Welsh Government in July/August 2016
- ii) Meetings with the Minister
- iii) Press release
- iv) Submission of the Joint Committee Cambrian Lines Franchise Document
- v) Submission of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee consultation response