

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

AGENDA

For the meeting to be held on **Friday 14th October 2016** at **11.15am**

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

1. Introductions and Register of Attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve the minutes of the last meeting of this Committee (See appendix A)

3. Financial Report

To consider a short financial report.

4. Actions taken since the last meeting

To receive an update on actions taken since the last meeting.

6. Report on Welsh Government Meeting

To receive a report on the visit to Welsh Government (Ken Skates Office) with regard to the Cambrian Lines.

7. Matters of importance on the line

To consider the following matters:

- i) Infrastructure at Machynlleth Station
- ii) Caersws station car parking.
- iii) Further investment at Welshpool Station.
- iv) Rail Ticket Sales – Tourist Information Office Welshpool.
- v) Stopping train on Coast Line.

8. Rail Reports

- 8.1 Arriva Trains Wales
- 8.2 Cambrian Rail Partnership
- 8.3 Network Rail
- 8.4 British Transport Police

9. Carno and Bow Street Station re-opening

To receive an update.

10. Future Plan for Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Committee

To consider the Future Plan as issued in May 2016 for comment.

11. General discussion on matters of concern

To consider any relevant matters raised by the Membership.

12. Any other business

To discuss any other relevant business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

13. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting

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

MINUTES

**of a meeting held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall
Welshpool on
FRIDAY 13th MAY 2016 at 11.15am**

1. Present were:

Cllr T Roberts	Chair West Cost 250
Cllr M Williams	Vice Chair, Powys County Council & Machynlleth Town Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary and Welshpool Town Council
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
Rhydian Mason	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Tony Caine	Powys County Council
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Peter Adams	Shropshire Council
Cllr Malcolm Douglass	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr G Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council
Angus Eickoff	S A R P A
D Woodhouse	Aber/Tywyn Tourism

2. Apologies for absence:

The Following apologies for absence were recorded:

Cllr M Benjamin
Cllr E Jones-Williams
Cllr Ann Lloyd
Cllr D Lewis

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

There was a comment about the amount of detail in the minutes, the Secretary informed the meeting that only basic details are included (except where they are considered of particular importance) with decisions. The meeting was happy with the minutes format.

4. Financial Report

The meeting considered the financial report as follows:

i) **Bank account**

The current position - £573.32p in the account before the two grants noted below are added.

ii) **Grant Aid Shropshire & Ceredigion Councils**

Grants from Shropshire and Ceredigion have been received.

iii) **Grant aid Powys County Council**

The grant from Powys County Council was considered. It is three years now and they have put nothing in the pot.

Tony Caine relayed the message that they support the Cambrian Partnership and the Heart of Wales Line Forum.

PCC was under the misunderstanding that this Committee is part of the Cambrian Partnership which is wrong.

The meeting was not impressed with the stance of Powys County Council and the secretary is to write expressing this along with information on what work the group has done over the years. A copy is to be sent to the Chair, Vice Chair and Tony Caine.

5. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting noted the following actions taken since the last meeting:

i) **The survey for Welsh Government in July/August 2016**

The Secretary has contacted Dave Thomas at Welsh Government and it appears that they are looking to the Rail Partnership to complete this work. The matter will be raised again when the meeting with the new Minister is held.

ii) **Meetings with the Minister**

Now that the May elections have passed a meeting can be arranged with the new Minister when one is appointed.

iii) **Press release**

The press release was approved and released.

iv) **Submission of the Joint Committee Cambrian Lines Franchise Document**

The document as approved was submitted to Welsh Government.

v) Submission of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee consultation response

The document as approved was submitted to Welsh Government.

vi) Consultation on Wales and Borders Franchise

The meeting was informed that only the first consultation on the above has taken place. There is another which is imminent and another to follow that.

6. Reports:

To receive reports as follows:

i) Arriva Trains Wales

The meeting received a full report from Arriva Trains Wales with the main points being as follows:

- a) An award of funding has been gained to install WiFi on all Arriva Trains Wales stock. This includes the 158's on the Cambrian Lines.
- b) The rail franchise ends in October 2018. There is much uncertainty about what is planned for the future.
- c) Sale of tickets can now be done using the telephone as a ticket.
- d) The Machines on the platforms are causing some concern, Arriva Trains is aware of this and is seeking to correct the situation.
- e) The timetable for the extra trains to complete an hourly service are still not coming forth at this stage.
- f) The timetable to enable trains to stop north of Barmouth is still not sorted but is being followed up.
- g) There are still not enough trains to support the rail timetables in Wales.
- h) The current performance figures include 93.7% on time and 89% satisfied with the services.
- i) There have been issues over the Cambrian Lines in the last six weeks due to problems with 175 units requiring the relocation of 158 units to fill in. This has left the Cambrian Lines with more 2 carriage trains than is normal. The situation has now rectified itself.
- j) The Network Rail infrastructure is still an issue with many line closures (with replacement buses) due over the holiday period through July to September. There are more planned for 2017.
- k) The Secretary thanked Arriva Trains for their swift action in clearing human 'poo' from the platform at Welshpool so quickly on two occasions, one earlier in the week.
- l) An update was given on the Borth crossing with some confusion between Network Rail and those 'on the ground'. Cllr R Quant now has key to allow access.

m) There are plans to provide a rail ticketing outline at Barmouth when the Tourist Information Office closes.

There are to be ticket sales at the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre starting very soon.

ii) Network Rail

There was no report from Network Rail.

Powys County Council reported on the rail crossing points, the one at Tallerdig has been priced and is now with Network Rail for implementation.

iii) Cambrian Rail Partnership

The reports given to the meeting have been posted on the web site.

Rhydian Mason took the meeting through the report.

iv) Transport Police

There was no report from the Transport Police.

7. Infrastructure

i. Shrewsbury

The following issues were raised:

The removal of the through freight line – this is due to be re-instated.

The new refreshment café on the platform was not well received.

Shrewsbury Station is due to be closed on 9th July all day for works.

ii. Welshpool

The following actions were reported:

The new car park is open.

Agreement has been reached between WTC and PCC on the Town Bus stopping at the Station very soon. A timetable has been issued.

The Town Council is installing two litter bins by the footbridge (one each side).

iii. Newtown

Nothing raised at the meeting.

iv. Caersws

There are still discussions continuing regarding improved car parking.

v. Machynlleth

The following information was tabled:

The lifts are due to be commissioned on 20th June following many delays.

The car parking and integrated bus point is progressing through discussions.

Concern over the bus situation in Machynlleth was expressed with regards to safety.

vi. Dovey Junction

Nothing was tabled. The meeting noted that access is pedestrian only..

vii. Borth

The museum has been in place for 5 years and has a special event on 2/7/2016.

viii. Aberystwyth

The following was tabled:

The station adoption scheme now allows for mobility scooters to be available to those using the trains.

The Victorian building (opposite the platform) is now to be home to several café's with a link to the new multi storey car park.

The station canopy is an issue – there are requests for a longer canopy and for the leaks to be fixed. (it is understood that the leaks may have been so fixed).

ix. Other closed stations

The meeting noted the following:

Bow Street – re-opening

The meeting noted the work being done to look at re-opening Bow Street Station. This appears to have Welsh Government backing allowing progress.

Carno re-opening

The meeting noted the work being done by the Carno Action Group.

8. Tourism matters

To consider the following:

i) Tourist Information Office provision along and around the line.

There was concern expressed about the continued closure of Tourist Information Offices along and around the towns served by the Cambrian Line.

ii) Rail ticket sales at Newtown and Welshpool.

The meeting noted that the Newtown ticket sales facility is continuing and that Welshpool Tourist Information Office will be selling rail tickets soon.

The meeting noted that there is a specialist rail service offered in a retail unit in Tywyn.

9. Future Plan for SARLC

The meeting considered a letter from SARPA and this was considered. The subjects raised are already covered in the future plan for the SARLC. The meeting agreed to meet one hour before the joint meeting in July to discuss the document which is attached to these minutes in draft.

10. Date of next meeting

To note the day of the next meeting to be held Friday 8th July 2016 at Machynlleth.

A cheaper venue than Y Plas is to be considered.