



DRAFT MINUTES

**of a meeting held on
Friday 10th February 2017 at 11.15am
in the Town Hall Welshpool**

Present were

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair – West Coast 250
Cllr Michael Williams	Vice Chair Powys County Council Machynlleth Town Council
Cllr E Jones-Williams	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr M Benjamin	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr J Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Roger Whitehouse	Tallylyn Railway
Jeremy Barnes	Carno Station Action Group/Community Council
Chris Wilson	
Angus Eickhoff	S A R P A
Rhydian Mason	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
David Crunkhorn	Arriva Trains Wales
Robert Robinson	Secretary and Welshpool Town Council

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr M Douglass (Welshpool).

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approve the minutes of the last meeting held in October 2016.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

3. Financial Report

The meeting received a financial report. The current bank balance is £1,065.



4. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting noted the actions since the last meeting as follows:

i) Franchise Meetings held in Welshpool.

The four bidding franchise companies attended sessions with members over two days in January 2017. This was well received. The areas discussed at the meeting are posted on the web site. Members may privately receive a copy of the answers by request to the secretary.

ii) Plaque for the late Mansell Williams. (17th March 2017)

Arrangements are well in hand for the unveiling of the plaque.

iii) Surveys for Welsh Government (April and August)

The secretary outlined the details of the surveys being carried out in April and August this year which will form a report to Welsh Government.

The secretary is to check on track work to avoid days when this is happening. Arriva Trains Wales is happy to accommodate those carrying out surveys on the trains.

iv) Final chapter in the Welshpool Station Car Park

The final chapter is hopefully coming to an end. There is still some doubt over the ownership of the site. Powis Estates own the freehold but there is no proof of title record of a lease to Network Rail at present.

v) To note that Machynlleth Lifts are now in operation

The meeting noted that the lifts are now working but that the bi-lingual signage is still not installed.

vi) Card to Val Graul

The meeting was informed that a card was sent to Val to say thank you for all her work for the Committee.

5. Future Plan for the Committee

The final plan has been posted on the web site since November with no further comments received. The Plan was adopted a formal Policy of the Committee. See web site for approved copy.



6. Guards on trains

The meeting considered the importance of Guards/Other Staff with a safety critical role on trains on the main and coast lines.

The importance was underlined by recording the following important points:

Arriva Trains Wales confirmed that during their franchise there will always be a conductor/guard on all trains.

- i) Rural nature of the lines (no stations are manned all the time).
- ii) Important information to passengers as trains split and there are short platforms.
- iii) There are a lot of children using the services for local journeys.
- iv) Revenue collection and safety of passengers.

Actions

The Secretary is to write to Transport for Wales, the Minister (Ken Skates) and shadow Transport Secretary (Russell George) on the matter.

The Secretary is also to issue a press release as this is an item of public interest.

7. Reports

The meeting considered the various reports as follows:

i) Arriva Trains Wales

A report was given by Arriva Trains Wales (Ben Davies) with the following points of note:

- a) Class 158 trains should all have free WiFi by Easter 2017.
- b) Increases in passenger traffic from 2015 to 2016 saw increases of 9.5% local and 5.2% non-local journeys.
- c) Late Coast Train is now stopping all stations.
- d) There is to be a change in the timetable to allow the last train to link better at Machynlleth. (arrival of ex Shrewsbury at 21.43 with the Coast train leaving 21.49). This will be Monday to Friday at first.
- e) Improvements in Bi-lingual Information was a hot topic with the franchise meetings, however there will be no investment to improve this during the life of the franchise as it is not clear if the trains will still be used in Wales after the new franchise.
- f) Bi-lingual information on platforms was raised.



Cont...

- g) Work is still continuing to improve Machynlleth Station as a transport hub.
- h) The new toilets at Machynlleth have been delayed but the temporary ones were always clean and well kept.
- i) Tickets should be purchased if possible before going onto a train; however the policy is that people should seek out the guard/conductor at the first opportunity when on the train.
- j) Information was asked for on cancellations but with little evidence to back up the statement of 60 out of 120 trains running late or cancelled. The member was asked to provide details so that Arriva Trains could respond.
- k) Appreciation was expressed at the work of Arriva Trains and what they do for the Cambrian lines.
- l) New shelters are due to be put in place at Machynlleth Station.
- m) New style of tickets was raised with such issues as them not being able to be used in London Underground ticket barriers. The tickets are being reviewed shortly.
- n) Lack of toilets was raised with regard to platform 3 at Shrewsbury, it was pointed out that except in exceptional circumstances this is an interchange platform and a train is normally already in the platform with the trains having toilets on board.

ii) **Cambrian Rail Partnership**

The meeting received the report (copy on web site).

There was some discussion covering the following:

- a) Barmouth bridge and walkers.
- b) New additional shelters at Welshpool, Dovey Junction and Llanaber.
- c) The Orange Wallet Scheme.
- d) New Logo noted.
- e) It was suggested that the new shelter at Llanaber be placed with the entrance facing away from the sea.

iii) **Network Rail**

The meeting received the report (copy on web site).

There was some discussion covering the following:

- a) The overruns on track work (7 hours in one instance) affecting train times.
- b) New footpath being provided at Dovey Junction.
- c) Information on works to the line could benefit from better publicity.
- d) Bus issues at Aberystwyth Station.



iv) British Transport Police

There was no report from the Police.

8. Elections

The Secretary thanked everyone for their work with the Committee and wished all those standing for County or Town/Community Council elections all the best.

9. Carno Station

There was nothing further to report at this stage on the re-opening of Carno Station. Papers on timetabling had been circulated to the Officers.

10. Dates of meetings for 2017

The dates for future meetings were confirmed as follows:

Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee

Friday 2nd June 2017 (annual meeting)

Friday 15th September

Friday 16th February

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

Joint meetings with Coast Line

Friday 7th July 2017

Friday 24th November 2017

All meetings are to be held in Machynlleth at 11.15am

11. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

a) Guards on trains

The Secretary is to write to Transport for Wales, the Minister (Ken Skates) and shadow Transport Secretary (Russell George) on the matter.

The Secretary is also to issue a press release as this is an item of public interest.

b) Minutes

To be posted on the web site.

c) Future Plan

The future plan to be circulated to interested parties.