

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Of a meeting held at The Town Hall Welshpool on

Friday 11th May 2018 at 11.15am

1. Record of attendance

| Present were Name | Representing |
|------------------------------|---|
| Cllr T Roberts | Chair |
| R A Robinson | Welshpool Town Council & Secretary |
| Cllr M Williams | Vice Chair and Powys CC and Machynlleth Town Council |
| Cllr E Jones-Williams | Gwynedd County Council |
| Ben Davies | Arriva Trains Wales |
| Chris Wilson | Ceredigion County Council |
| Roger Whitehouse | Talylyn Railway |
| Angus Eickhoff | S.A.R.P.A. |
| David Taylor | Rail Future |
| Ann Elias | Growing Mid Wales Partnership |
| P Adams | Shropshire Council |
| Cllr A Williams | Ceredigion CC & Aberystwyth Town Council |

| Apologies received from Name | Representing |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cllr R Quant | Ceredigion County Council |
| Dylan Lewis | Aberystwyth Town Council |
| Claire Williams | Cambrian Rail Partnership |
| Rosemarie Harris | Powys County Council |
| Roy Norris | Newtown Town Council |
| Cllr M Douglass | Welshpool Town Council |

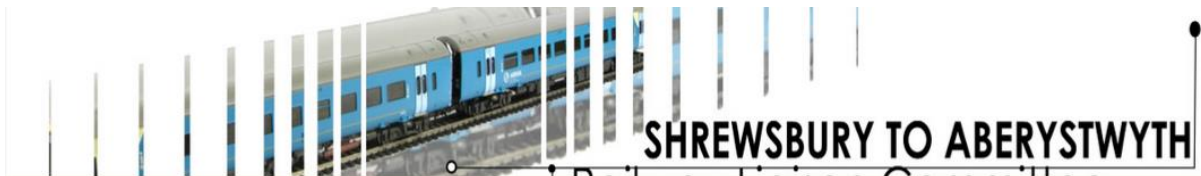
2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last combined meeting.

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting received a report on actions taken since the last meeting.

- i) Freight to be added to the next agenda – completed.
- ii) Survey on Freight to be completed in Welshpool – completed.
- iii) Rail crossings to be added to the next agenda – completed.
- iv) Welshpool Town Council to take forward new station proposals – under way.



- v) Chasing up of shelter provision at Welshpool – done but no response.
- vi) Ben Davies to pass on comments on rail information – completed.
- vii) Letter to Network Rail to be sent regarding weekend working in summer period and bank holidays – completed.
- viii) Rail services information charts – not yet available.

4. Financial report

The meeting noted the bank balance as £357.50. The £250 annual grant has been paid by Ceredigion, on the way from Shropshire but no response again from Powys County Council.

Cllr M Williams update the meeting on the Powys position. The secretary is to write to PCC and send a copy of the current invoice and a separate invoice for money owed from the previous 3 years.

5. Freight on the Cambrian Lines

A discussion took place around freight on the railways with the main points being:

- i) The survey carried out via the Town Council and the Industrial Estate returned a poor response with only 3 replies. Two were negative and one was positive.
- ii) Ann Elias informed the meeting of the work being done by the Marshes Group on freight and it will be much clearer as to the need when this is completed.
- iii) Double handling was recognised as one issue to overcome.
- iv) Robin Smith (Freight) is to be invited to the next meeting.

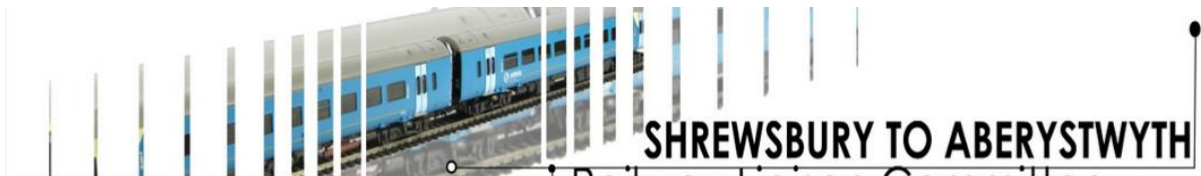
6. Reports from:

To receive reports from:

a. Arriva Trains Wales

A report was given by Ben Davies with the main points as follows:

- i) Services performance figures are awaited.
- ii) Toilets on trains being converted to disable friendly is an issue in the timescale set by Government of 2020. In some cases the toilets will simply be locked and not available if they cannot comply.
- iii) Further facilities are being provided at Machynlleth Depot.



Continued

- iv) Still waiting for delivery of 769 fleet, one has arrived and 3 delayed.
- v) The Secretary is in contact with Potters over the railway station and the issue of sawdust.
- vi) There are substantially more commuters between Welshpool and Shrewsbury and also between Welshpool and Newtown.
- vii) Minimal complaints received after January 2018 issued resolved.
- viii) The issue of buses linking with trains on the coast have largely been resolved.
- ix) One shelter is in place at Machynlleth and other is being refurbished.

b. Network Rail

A brochure was issued and this is posted on the web site.

c. Cambrian Rail Partnership

A written report was issued and is posted on the web site.

d. British Transport Police

No report

7. Franchise

The meeting noted the current situation.

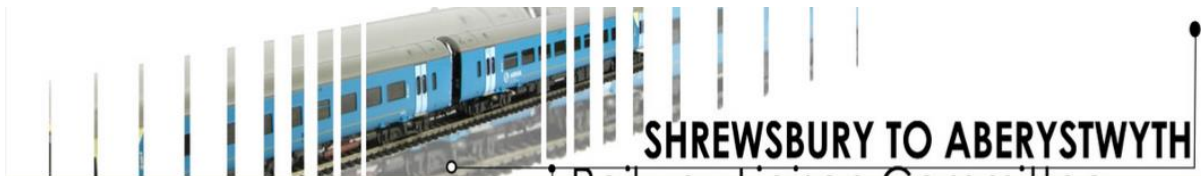
An announcement is expected in around 10 days' time.

8. Rail Crossings

The rail crossings appear to have been completed. Apparently an official opening is to be held and a date is awaited from Welsh Government.

9. Welshpool Station

The meeting received a short report on the initial proposals. Meetings have been held and initial designs tabled. Further design drawings are being prepared for the next stage along with investigations into land availability for more car parking



10. Tickets on board trains

Roger Whitehouse raised the issue of the policy to enforce purchasing a ticket before boarding the train. An order to travel was suggested so that the issues with ticket machines could be alleviated.

After discussion it was agreed that the signage is not clear and that the true situation is that 'passengers should purchase a ticket at the first opportunity including when the conductor guard is passing down the train and not trying to avoid such payment'.

The signage is to be changed to reflect this more clearly.

11. Old cattle docks and Motte and Bailey Castle Welshpool

An update was given on the old WLLR/BR cattle docks and Motte & Bailey Castle by the main line station. Funding is now in place for the first stage of the cattle docks and tenders are now being sought for the works. It is hoped the works will be completed by the end of the summer months.

12. Letter from Machynlleth Town Council

A letter was issued with the agenda from Machynlleth Town Council seeking the groups support for an integrated rail/bus station facility.

It was noted that funding has been forthcoming for such a facility in Machynlleth, Llandrindod Wells and Welshpool.

The group **AGREED** to send a letter of support to Machynlleth Town Council.

13. Welsh Government Meeting

The Chair announced that a further meeting with Welsh Government will now be held to consider the next surveys and to open a dialogue on other matters regarding the Cambrian Lines.

14. Date of next meeting

To note the dates for meetings during the year as follows:

SARLC Meetings:

Friday 19th October 2018 in Welshpool

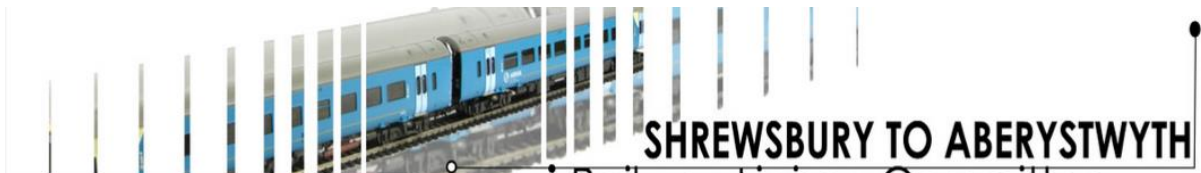
Friday 8th February 2019 in Welshpool

Joint Meetings:

Friday 13th July 2018 in Machynlleth

NOTE – Change to October meeting date as this will give a chance for the group to meet the New Franchisee after taking over the service.

All meetings start at 11.15am



15. Actions to be taken forward:

- i) Invoice to Powys County Council
- ii) Meeting with Ministers Office
- iii) Tickets on board trains information to be issued
- iv) Change October meeting date to 19th
- v) Add freight to all agenda for time being
- vi) Letter to Machynlleth Town Council