



MINUTES

of a meeting held at The Town Hall Welshpool on
Friday 19th October 2018 at 11.15am

1. Record of attendance

Present were	Organisation
Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair	West Coast 250
Cllr Michael Williams Vice Chair	Machynlleth Town Council & Powys County Council
Robert Robinson Secretary	Welshpool Town Council
Ben Davies	Transport for Wales
Clare Williams	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Cllr Eryl Jones-Williams	Gwynedd Council
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion Council
Cllr Tony Parsons	Shropshire Council
Cllr Jane McKenzie	Shrewsbury Town Council
Cllr Delwyn Evans	Dolgellau Town Council
Ann Elias	Growing Mid Wales Partnership
Cllr Jeremy Barnes	Carno Action Group and Carno Community Council
Jeff Smith	SARPA
Roger Woodhouse	Tallylyn Railway
David Taylor	Rail Future

Apologies received from	Organisation
Cllr Ray Quant	Ceredigion Council
Cllr Malcolm Douglass	Welshpool Town Council
Chris Wilson	Ceredigion Council
David Crunkhorn	Transport for Wales Rail Services
Claire Hickman	Network Rail

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) Report on meeting with Welsh Government.

A report was given on a meeting with Welsh Government – some main points are:



- a) The through services to Birmingham International as at present are to remain in place.
 - b) Confirmation of the programme of planned activity under Transport for Wales. (details in the presentation noted below under the report from TforW).
 - c) Level of investment planned is extensive.
- ii) **Check on platform shelters.**
There is no movement on the provision of the shelters purchased. These shelters are 'rotting' in a yard having been purchased.
 - iii) **Welshpool Station.**
Progress is being made on improved station facilities at Welshpool.
 - iv) **Cattle Docks Welshpool**
The meeting noted the works of refurbishment being carried out on the Ancient Monument Status Cambrian Cattle Docks in Welshpool.
 - v) **Freight on the Cambrian Lines**
Robin Smith was not available for the meeting. However the item will remain on the agenda until a visit has been arranged.
 - vi) **Machynlleth Town Council**
The letter confirming support for a transport hub in Machynlleth was sent.
- 4. Financial report**
The meeting consider the financial report including noting that Powys County Council has now paid the current year's subscription in the sum of £250.
- 5. Reports from:**
To receive reports from:
- a. **Network Rail**
There was a short report from Network Rail who do wish to be more involved in the Committee's work.

continued
An outline of line closures was presented affecting the Machynlleth to Aberystwyth section of the line.
 - b. **Cambrian Rail Partnership**
The Cambrian Rail Partnership report was given, a copy of the report is posted on the web site.



c. British Transport Police

There was no report available for the meeting.

6. Presentation by Transport for Wales (Rail Services)

Ben Davies presented the following to the meeting:

- a) Aim is to make Cambrian Lines accessible to all 7 days a week.
- b) Ticketing availability to be extended to make it easier.
- c) £200m investment over 5 years in addition to Valley Lines.
- d) £40m for station improvements.
- e) All stations to be given an overhaul including a deep clean.
- f) Money allocated for better parking at stations.
- g) Use of redundant buildings for community uses.
- h) £10m allocated for WiFi on all stations (including Sugar Loaf).
- i) A fund has been set up to support the arts.
- j) New rolling stock for the Cambrian Lines in 2022/2023.
- k) Class 170's will be refurbished for the Heart of Wales Line.
- l) Heart of Wales Line will be extended towards Crewe.
- m) The Shrewsbury Crewe service is to be doubled.
- n) Improved rail services on the Cambrian Coast lines as follows:
 - i) Sundays increase from 1 to 3 services per day in 2019.
 - ii) Weekdays increase from 3 to 5 services per day in 2019.
 - iii) Aim is to provide 9 trains per day from 2022/2023.
- o) Improved rail services on the Main Line as follows:
 - i) Sunday service to be hourly from 2019.
 - ii) Full hourly train service 7 days a week from 2022/2023.
- p) All new trains will be ETRMS fitted so that interchange of trains to meet services demands is easier.
- q) The North Coast will have some class 230's in the interim (Old class D London Underground stock).
- r) The trains in the interim will be various colours until new stock arrives.
- s) New station at Bow Street opens in 2020.

Continued:

- t) All Cambrian Line class 158 stock will be refurbished for the short term including accessible toilets and tanks to take toilet. The trains to also include better Air Conditioning, more electric plugs etc.
- u) There will spare class 158 stock available for support as stock movements are completed.
- v) There has been an extensive order of new trains placed so that the train replacements can meet the programme outlined.



- w) All new information will be bi-lingual.
- x) Link from Dovey Junction to the Dovey Osprey Project being considered.
- y) CCTV and cycle racks are to be provided at all stations.
- z) New services will be provided including a Cardiff to Liverpool route and more trains from Cardiff to Chester.

Transport for Wales wants to work with the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Committee to gain their views and work together to achieve the objectives.

It is hoped that the new franchise arrangements will help with tourism and business for Mid Wales.

Included in the presentation was an outline of Kelios Amey and their respective Company experience.

Questions with answers noted:

- a) There is unlikely to be any improvement in the current service delivery (delays and cancellations) over the next 3-6 months while new arrangements are put in place.
- b) Shrewsbury Station major refurbishment is still planned in the near future.

The slides from the presentation will be posted on the web site.

7. Rail operational details

The Welsh and Borders Railways are now operated as follows (from 15.10.2018).

Tracks	Network Rail and another company for part.
Trains & infrastructure	Transport for Wales.
Staffing and operational	Kelios
Maintenance	Amey

8. Public concerns on rail matters

The meeting and Transport for Wales was made aware of a letter of concern received from a resident regarding connection of trains.

It was noted that trains are held when connections are running late for reasonable periods of time.

The rail operator noted the comments.



9. **Date of next meeting**

The meeting noted the dates for meetings during the year as follows:

SARLC Meetings:

Friday 8th February 2019 in Welshpool

Joint Meetings:

Friday 10th May 2019 in Machynlleth

All meetings start at 11.15am

10. **Actions to be taken forward:**

The following actions are to be taken forward:

- a) A letter to be sent to the appropriate persons regarding access to Dovey Junction Station.
- b) The subject of Freight to be kept on the agenda and Robin Smith is to be invited to the next meeting.
- c) Inform Clare Williams of Welshpool dementia meeting dates.
- d) Note Claire Hickman's new email address.
- e) Transport for Wales is to let the secretary know what times the hourly Sunday services will start from.