



**Pwyllgor Cyswilt Rheilffordd Aberystwyth Amwythig
Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee**

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**JOINT MEETING
SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
AND
THE CAMBRIAN COAST CONFERENCE**

MINUTES

**For a meeting of the Liaison Committee to be held on
Friday 10th May 2019 at 11.15am in the
Bowling Club Machynlleth**

1. Record of attendance

1.1 Present were:

Cllr Trevor Roberts (Chair SARLC)	
Cllr E Jones-Williams (Chair Cambrian Coast)	
Cllr Michael Williams (Vice Chair)	Powys County and Machynlleth Town Councils
Robert Robinson (Secretary)	Welshpool Town Council
Hugh Evans	Transport for Wales
David Crunkhorn	Transport for Wales
Robin C Smith	Rail Freight Group
Cllr P Adams	Shropshire Council
Delwyn Evans	Access (Meirionnydd)
Cllr A Lloyd-Jones	Gwynedd Council
Cllr S Griffiths	Gwynedd Council
Cllr D Lewis	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion Council
Cllr A Williams	Ceredigion Council
Stuart Williams	Talylyn Railway and Great Little Trains of Wales

1.2 Apologies received:

Clare Williams	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Russell George	Montgomeryshire AM
Ann Alias	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Tm
Roger Whitehouse	Talylyn Railway

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approve the minutes of the last joint meeting.

3. Freight on the Cambrian Lines

3.1 The meeting received a presentation from Robin Smith on rail freight.

This was well received. A copy of the presentation is to be attached to these minutes and posted on the web site.

3.2 The actions to be taken forward following the presentation are to be:

- i) Find out what happened to the feasibility study planned in 2010.
- ii) Seek via Welsh Government a moratorium on selling any rail land which might be used for freight centres.
- iii) Seek to gain support for looking into a proposal for a depot at Moat Lane Junction.

4. Matters arising from the last minutes

4.1 Actions from the last meeting

The meeting considered the following matters from the last meeting:

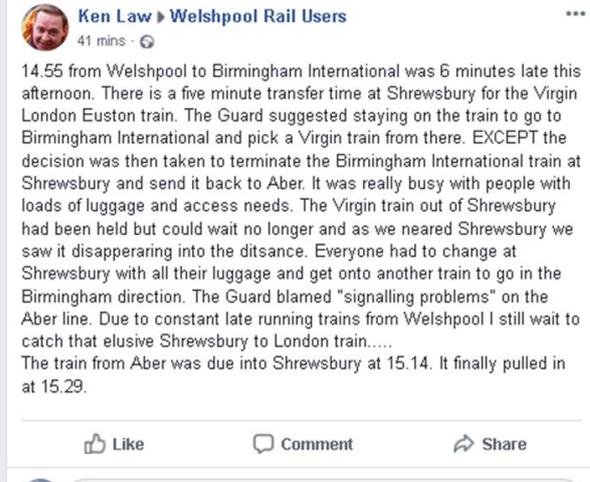
- i) Meeting with Ministers Office in Cardiff to be held.**
This meeting was held and a report issued.
- ii) Welshpool Access for All Plan to be passed to Claire Williams.**
This was completed.
- iii) Financing of SARLC to be added to next agenda.**
The item was included on this agenda.
- iv) Date of next Dementia Meeting in Welshpool to be passed to Claire Williams.**
This was done.
- v) Re-arrange presentation on Freight.**
Robin Smith is present at this meeting with a presentation on Freight.
- vi) Meeting with Ben Davies to be arranged asap over service delivery issues.**
This meeting was held.
- vii) Agenda to be issued in both paper and email form.**
The papers are sent out in email form and paper form as required.

4.2 Welshpool Rail Users Group (Facebook page)

The meeting considered the comments posted on the Welshpool Rail Users Facebook Page with the general answers to questions being recorded as follows:

This Facebook site is not an official rail page but does present some of the issues that rail users have concerns about. The key points raised are listed here:

NO	Item	Response from Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee with Transport for Wales
1	Timetabling – missing 4.30pm train ex Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth	A full hourly weekend service is due for December 2019 and seven days a week from December 2023.
2	Timetabling – first train on Sunday is 10.57 – to late for many travellers	See no 1 above.
3	Seat reservation issues – either not being put out or people not turning up for reserved seats	This was noted by Transport for Wales as an issue.
4	Train information when trains are cancelled mixed	Improvements to information are planned to be taken forward.
5	Ticket machine – mainly user issues	There are new ticket machines due soon with improved visibility and facilities.
6	Number of two carriage trains increasing with overcrowding	This will reduce as stock becomes available. People will experience changing trains at Shrewsbury to enable a four car unit to be going both ways. This is due to some trains not being able to run on the Cambrian Lines. Transport for Wales acknowledges the issue and confirmed 21 new trains are on order which will be used on the Cambrian Lines.
7	Shelters on platform need to be extended	There is a new shelter to replace the existing planned to be installed over the next few weeks.
8	Hold up early this afternoon - Shrewsbury bound train was at Welshpool for over 35 minutes with no clear information , meaning that a friend has missed all connections to London. Had someone clearly explained the problem we could have made a decision as to whether I should pick him up and drive him to Shrewsbury station. He's now stuck at Birmingham in a very long queue (should have been out of there before 3.45) and no information being given. What is going on with this ruddy appalling company?	Transport for Wales has noted the issues and will seek improvements.

9		<p>The issue of the connection between the Cambrian Line and the Virgin Train to London is not an official connection. However the possibility of a timetable change is being considered to allow a transfer.</p>
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The answers will be posted on the Facebook page from which they were taken.

5. Financial

5.1 The meeting received a SALC financial report.

Welshpool Town Council has donated £250 to the group which added to the amount in the bank amounts to a total of £327.

5.2 Invoices for a grant from Shropshire, Gwyneth and Ceredigion are being sent out soon.

Once these payments have been received Cllr M Williams will approach Powys again.

5.3 The meeting approved the following banking resolution:

Cllr Mansell Williams (Dec'd) be removed from the bank account at Lloyds Bank PLC and that Cllr Trevor Roberts and Cllr Michael Williams be added as signatories to the account. For the avoidance of doubt each transaction must be signed two of the three signatories.

We hereby certify that the above resolution is in accordance with the constitution.

6. Station Audits

6.1 Station Audit

Transport for Wales confirmed that station audits have been completed on the Cambrian lines including taking into account the audit information presented from this group.

Continued...

The results of the audit are now being considered and will be ready for a final report by the end of June 2019. A priority list will then be put together and actioned.

6.2 Dementia Friendly Line

The station audits for Dementia are taking place. The questionnaire used was questioned as not being very good or informative. David Crunkhorn will take these comments back.

7. Transport for Wales

The meeting received an update and report from Hugh Evans with the main points being:

- i) The following rail information was noted:
 - Chester – Manchester Piccadilly via Helsby/Frodsham/Runcorn Transport for Wales services will not run.
 - Rail replacement buses will operate between Chester and Newton-le-Willows, calling at Helsby, Frodsham, Runcorn East, Earlestown, Warrington Bank Quay and Warrington Central. Passengers are advised to change at Newton-le-Willows for connecting trains to/from Manchester.
- ii) The following rail information was also noted:
 - Rail replacement bus services will also operate between Chester and Manchester Airport, calling at Helsby, Frodsham and Runcorn East. Passengers are advised to change at Manchester Airport for connecting train services to/from Manchester.
 - Earlestown/Newton-le-Willows – Manchester Piccadilly Direct services between Earlestown/Newton-le-Willows and Manchester Piccadilly will be reduced to one train an hour (as Transport for Wales train will not run) meaning these services will be much busier than usual.
 - Passengers may also travel on the direct services between Earlestown/Newton-le-Willows and Manchester Victoria. The main issues are around lack of train units, Transport for Wales will do all it can find extra units in the short term until the new units arrive.
- iii) The full hourly service at weekends is due to start from the December 2019 timetable.
- iv) Earlier trains on Sundays are part of the new weekend hourly timetable.

- v) The full hourly service on the main line 7 days a week is due to commence 2022/2023.
- vi) Better access for people with disabilities is progressing.
- vii) The pacer trains are to be withdrawn from the valley lines in Cardiff by the end of 2019.
- viii) It was noted that the number of complaints has reduced a bit.
- ix) Improvements to the Welsh Language presentation of information is being addressed, some of the issues can be resolved with better technology.
- x) Rail Ambassadors are being introduced very soon. They will promote the railway locally. Each ambassador will cover a small area to allow a detailed knowledge of their patch.

Other points were covered elsewhere in these minutes.

8. Other reports

There were reports for the meeting from the Cambrian Rail Partnership, Network Rail or the British Transport Police. When they become available they will be posted on the web site.

9. Stations:

9.1 Carno re-opening

There is not update for this meeting.

9.2 Welshpool improvements

The meeting considered an update on progress with regards to Welshpool Station. The land is progressing to purchase for extra car parking. A feasibility study is taking place. Both the Chair and Secretary have met with the company doing this. The public survey work has been completed by Welshpool Town Council to inform the study.

9.3 Machynlleth improvements

No further update with regards to Machynlleth Station improvements.

The works carried out to date of the lifts, railway waiting room and toilets have been well received.

10 Review of Future Plan

The meeting considered and approved an update on progress towards meeting the objectives of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee Plan. This monitoring report is attached to the minutes.

11 Letter from Roger Whitehouse

The meeting considered a letter from Roger Whitehouse.

The comments recorded in relation to the questions are set out below:

- a) The information given was corrected in December 2019 – the information given at the time was given in good faith but proved to be incorrect.
- b) There are 21 new units with ETRMS fitted on order for the Cambrian Lines.
- c) There will be 17 units required to provide the full hourly service.
- d) Transport for Wales confirmed that the new trains will allow for 6 carriages in peak times.
- e) The issue regarding 14th March were noted. The reason for the problem related to a broken down train. It was for necessary operational reasons the situation arose.

A copy of the letter from Roger Whitehouse is on file.

12 Thanks

The Chair thanked the Bowling Club for their hospitality, Robin Smith for his presentation, Transport for Wales for their honesty and Robert Robinson as Secretary to the meeting.

13 Date of next meeting

The dates for the next meetings are to be as follows:

Joint Meeting – Friday 8th May 2020 at 11.15am at Machynlleth Bowling Club

SARLC Meeting – Friday 12th July 2019 at 11.15am at Welshpool Town Hall

14. Actions to be taken forward:

The following actions are to be taken forward:

- i) Bank mandate completion
- ii) Invoices to County Councils for grant aid of £250
- iii) Report responses to Welshpool Facebook Group
- iv) Chase up progress on both Welshpool and Machynlleth station improvements.
- v) Post Robin Smith's presentation on the web site and attach to minutes.
- vi) Seek Powys County Council views on a depot at Moat Lane.

**SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
FUTURE PLAN ADOPTED IN 2017**

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
MONITORING REPORT – MAY 2019**

The following is the action plan included in the report and progress to date.

No	Aim or objective	Status
1	<p>Main Line An hourly service for most of the day along the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Line.</p>	This has been supported by surveys and is planned to be in place in December 2022.
2	<p>Coast Line service on the Coast Line</p>	This has been supported by surveys and is planned to be in place by December 2022.
3	<p>Shrewsbury Station The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the redevelopment of Shrewsbury Station to provide better facilities. Also better access to platform3.</p>	Refurbishment delayed. Some improvements taking place. Still poor access to Platform 3.
4	<p>Welshpool The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following: i) Improved disabled access to the platforms. ii) Rail ticket sales on the platform and at the Tourist Information Centre. iii) Town Bus Service provision at the station with improved signage.</p>	<p>The survey for Dementia has been completed. Improvements to the rail station are now progressing.</p> <p>Ticket machine on the platform and Tourist Info Centre sells rail tickets.</p> <p>A bus station is progressing.</p>
5	<p>Newtown The Committee will consider supporting the completion of any improvements to this station as they come forward</p>	The survey for Dementia has been completed.
6	<p>.Caersws The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of improved car parking facilities.</p>	Investigations continue.
7	<p>Machynlleth The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following: i) Completion of works to the footbridge and lift provision. ii) Improved car parking and bus arrangements.</p>	<p>Further facilities have been completed.</p> <p>The provision of the lifts is completed.</p> <p>The car park improvements are still under review.</p>

No	Aim or objective	Status
8	Dovey Junction The Committee supports and will support any further improvements to access to serve the station.	Footpath access from the station to the Osprey Project would be supported.
9	Borth The Committee will consider supporting the completion of any improvements to this station as they come forward.	No further actions at this time.
10	Bow Street New station to be completed.	Progressing.
11	Aberystwyth The Committee will consider supporting the completion of any improvements to this station as they come forward.	Various improvements have been completed and are continuing.
12	Further stations To support the re-opening of intermediate stations (subject to such actions not impeding the full hourly train service with its connections)	Support for the re-opening of Carno has been confirmed subject to the hourly service requirement.
13	Flooding and sea defences To support any infrastructure works to protect the line from the effects of the sea and in particular flooding. To support any remedial actions that is taken to reduce the risk of flooding on the main line.	Various actions have been taken. The sea defences along the line have been much approved.
14	Seven Day Timetabling To support a full train service every day of the week.	Plans to introduce same in Dec 2022.
15	On board catering On board catering to be continued and extended as needed to all trains.	There are more trains with catering, more to be done.
16	Ticketing to gain a more understandable ticketing system for rail services including 'Bus Plus' ticketing.	No real progress on the Cambrian Line.
17	Information To support improvements to the information boards, displays on platforms and other printed material for the public.	New display boards are on all platforms. Printed material for the public remains in place.
18	Train stock To support the introduction of new rolling stock and the upgrading of the existing stock.	New stock due in 2023.

No	Aim or objective	Status
19	London services To support the retention of London services from Shrewsbury.	Shrewsbury-London service being improved.
20	Cross border rail services To support the retention of services from Mid Wales to Birmingham International and to other main centres.	Through trains to Birmingham have been confirmed as existing.
21	Welshpool Town Bus Service calling at the railway station.	The bus calls at the station.
22	Signage To improve signage at stations giving information on buses and where they serve.	Limited improvements.
23	Local buses To support the retention of rural bus services where there is no other form of public transport available.	Being monitored.
24	Local bus linking main stations Support for the provision of buses along the rail line towns stopping at the villages as well as the main line stations linked to train times.	No progress to date.

The above list does not indicate that the Committee has been involved in any of the above actions although in some cases they have been part of the delivery of such improvements.

R A Robinson FRICS FSLCC
Secretary
March 2019