



SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**of a meeting of the Liaison Committee held on
Friday 12th July 2019 at 11.15am in the
Council Chamber Town Hall Welshpool**

1. Record of attendance

1.1 Present were:

Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair

Cllr M Williams Vice Chair, Machynlleth Town and Powys County Council

Robert Robinson Secretary and Welshpool Town Council

Clare Williams Cambrian Rail Partnership

Tony Parsons Shropshire Council

Cllr A Williams Ceredigion County Council

Cllr P Adams Shropshire Council

Cllr J Smith SARPA

Roger Whitehouse Talylyn Railway

1.2 Apologies received:

Cllr D Lewis, Cllr R Quant, Cllr J McKenzie, Cllr M Douglass, Cllr E Jones-Williams, Ann Alias, C Wilson, Transport for Wales and Clare Hickman (Network Rail).

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last joint meeting.

3. Actions from the last meeting

The meeting considered the following matters from the last meeting:

i) Cambrian Lines Dementia progress

This project has been put on hold pending appointment of an officer. Welshpool Town Council will let Transport for Wales know that it will paint the handrails in line with Dementia needs asap.

ii) Bank mandate completion

The secretary said that the alteration to the bank mandate is difficult. Cllr M Williams can be added but taking M Williams off is not so easy without causing distress to others.

iii) Invoices to County Councils for grant aid of £250

The invoices for each of the three County Councils (Shropshire, Ceredigion and Gwynedd have been issued (early in June 2019) but one has not been sent to Powys.

The meeting **AGREED** that one should be sent to Powys County Council and that Cllr M Williams will follow it up again. (copy invoice to Cllr Aled Davies).

iv) Welshpool Facebook Group

The notes on the Welshpool Facebook Group were added to the long list of issues to be raised with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales at a meeting on Monday 15th July in Cathay's Cardiff.

v) Welshpool and Machynlleth station improvements.

The update on each of the above is:

Machynlleth

The sum of £350,000 has been allocated to the provision of a bus interchange scheme. The consultation process will start soon.

Welshpool

The feasibility study for improvements to the station has been completed. The securing the land is progressing.

vi) Robin Smith's presentation on the web site and attach to minutes.

These were attached to the minutes and posted on the web site.

vii) Powys County Council views on a depot at Moat Lane.

A letter seeking the views of the County Council has been sent but with no reply to date.

viii) Find out what happened to the feasibility study planned in 2010 (Freight).

There appears to have been no progress since this study on the matters contained within it.

- ix) **Seek via Welsh Government a moratorium on selling any rail land which might be used for freight centres.**

This subject is on the agenda for the meeting being held on Monday 15th July in Cardiff with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales.

- x) **Seek to gain support for looking into a proposal for a depot at Moat Lane Junction.**

This subject is on the agenda for the meeting being held on Monday 15th July in Cardiff with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales.

4. Financial

4.1 The meeting received a financial report. The current bank balance is £302.00 including the grant received from Welshpool Town Council.

4.2 If all the County Councils pay the grant aid of £250 each then the finances ease. The subject is to be placed on the next agenda.

4.3 The meeting thanked Welshpool Town Council for its grant aid and the continued support of venues at no cost.

5. Station Audits

Station Audits have been completed. Some works on the Cambrian Lines has been completed from the results of the audit.

6. To receive reports as follows:

Transport for Wales

There was no report from Transport for Wales.

Cambrian Rail Partnership

The main items raised were:

- i) **Dementia Friendly Line**

Some work has started with Newtown and Welshpool, however, this was recently put on hold by TfW RS as they have now recruited an Accessibility Manager, Dr Robert Gravelle and this is something that will be looked at as part of his role and also of the accessibility panel. Any station audits that are done with requirements for alterations need to go through Dr Gravelle and the accessibility panel. A meeting with TfW and Dr Gravelle has already been scheduled to discuss.

- ii) **Marketing and Communication**
The social media and web site facilities are all in place.
Tourism promote for the main and coast lines continues.
TV filming has taken place in a number of locations.
Contact by a food and drink magazine has also shown interest in promoting the Cambrian Lines.
- iii) **Pocket timetables**
These have proved very popular with a reprint required.
Clare is to pass on the comment regarding colour scheme for the booklet which is hard to read with the current colours.
- iv) **Scenic Wales Map**
A new map of Wales transport has been produced showing the connectivity between each transport service.
- v) **TFW Rail Services**
There is to be a new tourism manager who starts on 5th August.
He will be looking at re-branding the web site and publicity.
- vi) **Orange Wallets**
This scheme will continue to be encouraged.
- vii) **Rail safety**
There has been issued a rail safety DVD.
The Network Rail children's sticker book on safety was well received.
- viii) **Station adopters**
Many stations have been adopted along the Cambrian Lines.
There are still some needing adopters including Newtown (who has someone showing interest), Aberystwyth and Fairborne (some interest). Aberystwyth Town Council would like to work closely with any station adopter.
- ix) **Shrewsbury major developments**
There have been many changes already with the works to the footbridge almost complete. The revised signalling is to start its programme of works very soon.
- xi) **Hourly service delivery**
It was noted from the Cambrian Rail Partnership that there 18 diagrams for trains in 2023 which will enable the full hourly service.
It was also noted that a full hourly train service at weekends has been confirmed to start in December 2019.

Network Rail

Network Rail confirmed that there was nothing to report of any substance.

British Transport Police

No report.

7. Carno re-opening

The meeting was informed that the station re-opening project has moved to stage II. However, there is nothing in the current arrangements/franchise that would include such re-opening – lifespan of franchise is 15 years so there would need to be substantial money allocated to achieve the re-opening.

8. Transport for Wales/Welsh Government Meeting

The Chair and Secretary are meeting with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales on Monday 15th July 2019 and will raise the following subjects/concerns:

- a) Rail service delivery
- b) Seating capacity today and into the future.
- c) Timekeeping, delays and cancellations.
- d) Operational (extra uses from Conwy Valley Lines, 158 units used (fitted with ERTMS) being used on other lines etc)
- e) Some trains not being able to be through trains with changes at Shrewsbury.
- f) Announcements not audible.
- g) Information units not reliable.
- h) Air conditioning not working on a number of trains.
- i) Seat reservations not happening.
- j) Peak train ticket restrictions have come into effect – were not there before.
- k) Staffing issues at Machynlleth and Pwllheli.
- l) Train maintenance staff (new Company deal and TUPE)
- m) Proposed timetabling for December 2019.
- n) Station audits and results
- o) Welshpool Station improvements
- p) Machynlleth Station interchange improvements.
- q) 9.30 ex Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth always overloaded.
- r) Coast line capacity.
- s) Linking of Shrewsbury – London service with Cambrian Lines.
- t) Confirmation of hourly train service introduction.
- u) Confirmation of type and length of units to be used on the Cambrian Lines.

The issues raised by several members support the above list of concerns.

9. Any other business

9.1 Minister for Mid and North Wales

The meeting was informed that the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils will be calling for a Mid and North Wales Minister to promote the well-being and represent the area.

9.2 Attendance

The secretary will seek to refine the attendance list and seek direct contacts with those councils who have not attended for a while. The request for at least written reports from Transport for Wales, Network Rail and the British Transport Police will be made again. It was noted that the Cambrian Rail Partnership was almost always available via attendance (and it not via attendance via email report).

10 Date of next meeting

The following dates for meetings for the next 12 months were confirmed:

Shrewsbury/Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Meetings

Friday 11th October 2019 in Welshpool Town Hall

Friday 10th January 2020 in Welshpool Town Hall

Friday 10th July 2020 in Welshpool Town Hall

Friday 9th October 2020 in Welshpool Town Hall

Joint Meeting with Cambrian Coast Conference

Friday 8th May 2020 at 11.15am at Machynlleth Bowling Club