



SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting

Thursday 28th May 2020 at 10.30am on Zoom

1. Present were: Cllr Trevor Roberts (Chair SARLC), Cllr Michael Williams (Vice Chair SARLC), Cllr Eryl Jones-Williams (Chair CCC) and Robert Robinson (SARLC Secretary).

2. ZOOM

The meeting will be held by Zoom.

3. Lockdown administration

The meeting noted the lockdown administration and how things are being progressed in the absence of regular meetings.

Updates are posted on the web site with changes notified to members by email.

A monthly meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair (SARLC), the Chair (Coast Line) and the Secretary (SARLC) will be held to ensure business continues as close to normal as possible.

There will no face to face meetings until Welsh Government rules allow.

4. Finances

The meeting considered an update on the financial position of the Committee.

The grant aid from Powys County Council is still awaited. Cllrs Michael Williams and Ray Quant are following this up.

The 2020-2021 grant aid invoices are due to go out in July 2020.

5. General considerations on the main and coast line

The meeting noted the reduced services due to the lack of passengers in turn due to the Coronavirus situation.

There had been little or no comment on the current services.

Cllr E Jones-Williams thanked the Executive Team on their work in gaining the 5 trains a day on the coast line. This has been invaluable, particularly at this time when a Sunday service is running.



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The Executive will consider what the next 12 months has to hold with the Coronavirus restrictions with regards to the Cambrian Coast lines.

It was also noted that there was some work being done which might reduce services (buses in particular) due to low passenger numbers. Progress on this will be monitored and keep on the agenda for updates.

It was noted that the 'black market economy' level is clear with those not registering and paying tax feeling the lack of income due to no help being available to them.

6. Tourism

The meeting recognised the effect the current restrictions are having on tourism. This is to be kept under review as things unfold.

7. Carriage designs for Cambrian Lines

The meeting spent some time on the subject of new trains for the Cambrian Lines. There are some serious concerns which are summarised below:

- a) The number of units is to be reduced from 24 to 21 units. The Committee was told there would be an increase – not a decrease.
- b) The number of seats on each new train carriage is 11 less than currently in place.
- c) The provision of 1 toilet on a two carriage unit on a service which could be over 4 hours in journey time is not practical or good enough.
- d) The Committee was told the trains are being built in Wales, it appears they are not. They are built in Spain and fitted out in Wales.
- e) TFW are only building 21 x 2 car units fitted with ERTMS signalling. There would be a doubt if all trains are (to ensure 2 toilets on each service) would be 2 units making a total of 4 coaches.
- f) At the moment to strengthen service between International and Aberystwyth they sometimes make up the coaches with other types of sprinters but these have to be taken off at Shrewsbury because of the lack of ERTMS and the passengers swapped onto another train. The new trains will not allow any other types of trains to be attached so at busy times no extra units could be attached leaving only the 21 x 2 car units providing the whole of the Cambrian services. As noted 2 carriages are not enough on the Coast Line in the summer months.



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It was agreed that the following actions are to be taken forward urgently:

- i) A letter is to be drafted for approval of the Executive Team asap to Ken Skate Minister in Welsh Government.
- ii) The letter to be copied with covering letter to both Russell George and Dafydd Ellis-Thomas.
- iii) Lowri Joyce is to be informed of the above out of courtesy.

8. Consultations

The Committee noted the response to TFW consultation with regards to car parking was submitted on time. A copy is on the web site.

The consultation on the station audit was also responded to within time and a copy is on the web site.

The secretariat will continually scan for any further consultations so that SARLC can respond accordingly.

9. Carno Station progress

The meeting received an update on progress towards the re-opening. A Ministers announcement is expected on 7th June 2020.

10. Updates on web site

The meeting agreed that a monthly update on the web site for members is necessary and should be continued. The next issue will be in early June 2020.

11. Future Plan 2020-2025

The meeting noted the draft plan for the period 2020-2025. Comments from members are due back by 31st May 2020. The final plan will be put on the agenda for the next Executive Meeting before final publication for comment by members.

12. Machynlleth Bowling Club

The Machynlleth Bowling Club (where the group now meets) has been refurbished during the lockdown period.



Pwyllgor Cyswilt Rheilffordd Aberystwyth Amwythig
Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee



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13. Meeting on Zoom

The next meeting of the Executive is to be Wednesday 24th June 2020 at 10.30am.

The secretary will issue the link in advance.