



**SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

# MINUTES

**of the Executive meeting of the  
Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 12 noon  
Crown House Street Llanfair Caereinion SY21 0QY**

## 1. Record of attendance

Present were: Trevor Roberts Chair  
Michael Williams Vice Chair  
Robert Robinson Secretary

## 2. Minutes of the meeting held by Zoom June 2020

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in June 2020.

## 3. Actions to be taken forward from last meeting

The meeting considered the list of actions to be taken forward and their status as follows:

No	Item	Status
1	Publish minutes on web site	Completed
2	Publish final future plan 2020-2025	Completed
3	Letter to TfW regarding action plan from Welsh Government meeting. If no satisfactory response a letter to be sent to Welsh Government.	Revised chart to be produced covering items still active
4	Confirm to TfW concern over platforms and access when trains with more central doors are in use.	General letter sent to TfW.
5	Consultation on Wales Transport Strategy from Welsh Government	Completed

## 4. Financial

### 4.1 Financial Report

The meeting noted the net bank balance at the date of the meeting being £220.34p



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### 4.2 Funding of the Committee

The funding of the Committee was considered including consideration of a paper prepared with options to look at.

The Executive agreed that an approach should be made to the Welsh Government to see if there are any available grants.

### 5. Letters and responses

To consider an update on the following letters::

#### 1) Minister – Letter regarding concerns regarding new trains.

A letter was sent to the Minister over concerns about new train designs. Following this a joint meeting is being held with the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils with the Welsh Government and senior rail officials on 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm regarding this issue.

#### 2) TfW – schedule of actions from Welsh Government Meeting.

An up to date schedule of concerns and questions for Transport for Wales is attached to these minutes.

### 6. Future Plan 2020-2025

The Executive approved the final draft of the above plan taking into account member's comments. The final draft will now progress to full membership approval at the first available face to face meeting held when Covid 19 rules allow.

### 7. Transport for Wales, Network Rail and British Transport Police

To consider any matters relating to any of the above including:

- i) Timetable changes
- ii) Stations with short platforms and their closure for a period

### 8. Wales Transport Strategy Conference

The meeting noted the date of the conference (14<sup>th</sup> October 2020) and the cost of £51 for the secretary to attend. (Cost shared with North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils). A full report on the future of public transport in Wales will be issued following this.

### 9. North Wales Liaison Committee

The meeting noted the update regarding the above.



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### 10. Carno Station

The meeting considered the current situation with regards the re-opening of Carno Station. A decision on funding is awaited from Central Government in Westminster.

### 11. Local Buses

The meeting noted the usage information on local buses

The subject is to be kept in focus for after Covid 19 restrictions have been relaxed.

The question put by the Tallylyn Railway was considered and resolved to ask TfW's view on the Talallyn Question concerning train service to Fairbourne.

The main current concern is the provision of school transport where the train is not available during the Barmouth Viaduct closure. During the meeting TfW had clarified via Email that besides normal bus replacement services operating to cover the train services extra buses/coaches would be provided for Student traveling to and

from Tywyn and Harlech schools and included stewards to monitor the transport.

### 12. Provision of adequate train sets in December 2022

The Executive noted Welsh Government Policy to provide 65% more passenger spaces on trains by December 2022. However, on the Cambrian Lines there are less seats per train proposed.

This is particularly relevant to the Coast Line during summer months from Machynlleth to Talybont.

A discussion with Welsh Government on this matter is taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### 13. Freight on the Cambrian Lines

The meeting noted a paper written on freight and the Cambrian Lines.

The meeting noted the feasibility study for freight on the Conwy Valley Lines which concluded that the idea was not viable.

The meeting decided that the priority for the Cambrian Lines is the hourly train service and that freight was a subject for the future.



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### 14. Any other business

Other items discussed by the meeting were:

#### a) No regular service on the main line to what it was

Concern has been expressed by many rail users that the 07.54 ex Welshpool to Shrewsbury has been replaced by a bus service. As this is a commuter train its early re-instatement is essential. SARLC will continue to press for this.

#### b) Cambrian Rail Passes

The rise in the cost of the Cambrian Rail Pass was noted. The view held by the Executive is that it is still very good value for money. It was also noted that when you renew your railcard you get a 6 months extension.

#### c) Covid 19 and how it is going

The Executive considered how well the Cambrian Lines services were going taking into account Covid 19 and the restrictions in place. It was generally agreed that TfW was doing all it could to keep people safe on the trains.

#### d) Information from TfW

It was noted that general updates from TfW were not always coming through until asked for. General information was being picked up after the event rather than being forewarned. TfW is to be asked to ensure that SARLC gets the regular updates.

#### e) Constitution

The Executive considered the minor alterations to the constitution. A revision of the constitution is to be posted online.

The alterations related to meeting venues, Executive membership and reference to 'west coast' to be 'Cambrian Coast'.

#### f) Barmouth Viaduct closure

The meeting noted the closure of the above for works by Network Rail. Other matters relating to bus provision is noted under item 11 above.



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### g) Web Site posting

Postings on the web site policy was confirmed that only official documents, agenda, minutes and updates are posted. There has never been or will there be any personal, political or other similar material posted.

### h) Newsletter

A draft newsletter for publication is to be prepared including topics as follows:

Train sizes, Cambrian Railcard extension, buses and timetables, meetings into the future, closed stations, Carno and the constitution.

### 15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next Executive Meeting is to be Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 12 noon at Crown House High Street Llanfair Caereinion.

The date of the next full meeting is to be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 11.15am either at a central meeting hall or by Zoom depending upon government restrictions in place at the time.

### 16. Action Plan

The updated action plan is set out below:

No	Heading	Action	Done by
1	Minutes	The minutes are to be posted on the web site.	RAR
2	Newsletter	A draft to be prepared for approval before circulation.	RAR
3	WG and TfW Chart	Update TfW concerns and questions chart	RAR
4	Emails	Update email addresses	RAR/TR
5	Conference	Secretary to attend conference on 14 <sup>th</sup> October and report back to SARLC	RAR
6	Train set provision in December 2022	SARLC to join a Microsoft Team Video Link with the Mid and North Wales Association of Local Councils on 18 <sup>th</sup> September with Welsh Government.	RAR/TR
7	Constitution	The revised constitution is to be posted on the web site.	RAR



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8	Funding	An approach to be made to Welsh Government to see what funding might be available.	RAR
9	Carno Station	Seek update on Carno Station funding progress.	TR
10	Cambrian Coast rail service whilst Barmouth Bridge is closed	Ask TfW if a service could be taken to Morfa Mawddach during reduce train time period.	
11	Tallylyn Railway	Reply to R Woodhouse	RAR

### 17.Chart for liaison between TfW and SARLC

The updated chart of concerns and questions for TfW is set out below:

No	Heading	Action	Status
1	Station Audits	A copy of the revised station audit to be provided to SARLC	Still awaited.
2	Welshpool Station shelter	A new shelter to be considered in station audit review.	No further news received.
3	Dementia & publicity Publicity to be altered to be visually impaired and dementia friendly in next issues.	Dementia & publicity Publicity to be altered to be visually impaired and dementia friendly in next issues.	No action noted to date.
4	Train designs	A mock up being prepared, details to be provided to SARLC when ready.	Covid 19 affected this. Meeting with Welsh Government taking place on 18 <sup>th</sup> September.
5	Indicator boards in car parks	Indicator boards in car parks at Welshpool and Caersws to be taken forward through the station audit.	No action noted to date.
6	Indicator boards on platforms	Indicator board at the Aberystwyth end of the Dovey Junction platform to be taken forward through the station audit.	No action noted to date.



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7	Machynlleth-Barmouth	Further consideration to be given to Re-enforcing the seating provision during summer months along this stretch of line.	This item being taken up with Welsh Government on 18 <sup>th</sup> September.
8	Survey/Evaluation work	TfW to come back to SALC regarding this work in time for the summer months.	Still awaiting contact from TfW, however Covid 19 has affected any work on this.
9	Events List	A list of major events to be provided by SARLC to TfW.	A revised list of events will be required for 2021.
12	Ticket sales	Passengers having difficult getting tickets before travel and then be told they maybe fined.	Issue to be taken up with TfW and revenue inspectors.
11	Reservations	Reservations and their relationship with carriage numbering to be investigated.	Awaiting update.