



MINUTES

of a meeting held on
Friday 4th December 2020 at 11.15am by Zoom

1. Record of attendance

Present at the meeting were:

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair
Cllr Michael Williams	Vice Chair – Powys County & Machynlleth Town Council
Cllr E Jones-Williams	Cambrian Coast & Gwynedd County Council
Lowri Joyce	Transport for Wales
Ann Alias	Ceredigion County Council
Ann Lloyd-Jones	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Community Council
Roger Whitehouse	Talyllyn Railway
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr D Wilson-Lewis	Aberystwyth Town Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from:

Claire Hickman	Network Rail
David Taylor	Rail Future

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

4. Report from the Executive

The meeting was updated on the work of the Executive since the last meeting as per the chart on the agenda.

5. Financial Report

The meeting considered a financial report from the Secretary.

- i) The current bank balance is approx. £250.
- ii) There have been no County Council grants received in the current year.
- iii) It was agreed that the secretary would:
 - a) Pass details with an invoice to Ray Quant for Powys County Council year ending 31st March 2020.
 - b) A reminder to be sent to Ceredigion, Shropshire and Gwynedd Councils. Cllr E Jones-Williams is chasing payment from Gwynedd County Council.



6. Chart of actions

The secretary set out a chart showing the current position with regards to Transport for Wales queries as follows:

No	Heading	Action	Update
1	Station Audit	Issue of current audit to the Committee.	None issued to date. A new audit is to be prepared.
2	Welshpool Station Shelter	Awaiting additional shelter.	Confirmation of a new shelter received but not clear if this is an additional shelter.
3	Dementia friendly scheme	Scheme for Dementia Friendly Stations.	Appointment of an officer (12 months ago) – no action to date.
4	Train designs	Issue of train designs to Committee.	Issued at recent TFW Liaison Meeting. Slides with more detail to be issued to members.
5	Indicators Boards at Welshpool and Caersws Station car parks.	Installation of indicator boards in the car parks.	These are now included in the infrastructure plan.
6	Indicator boards at Dovey Junction.	Additional indicator boards further down the Aberystwyth platform end.	Confirmation awaited.
7	Re-enforcement of Cambrian Coast line in summer.	A scheme for supporting greater capacity required for the Cambrian Coast Line in the summer months.	No details issued to date.

A current review on the outstanding matters will be issued by Lowri Joyce, this can be circulated when received.

7. Station improvements

A number of station improvements were discussed including:

- i) A new shelter is also needed at Llanbadr Station in due course. (station currently closed due to Covid 19 restrictions).
- ii) There are some indicator boards which are not the responsibility of TFW and Network Rail is to be asked about these.



- iii) The station car park at Caersws requires approx. £1m of funding. The secretary is to contact Nigel Brinn of Powys County Council to obtain an update on progress.
- iv) The scheme for Machynlleth improvements are progressing. The current programme is delayed with consultants now appointed.

8. Meeting with Welsh Government

The meeting considered the minutes of a meeting with Welsh Government – the minutes are available on the web site.

The actions to be completed by Welsh Government are yet to be confirmed. The secretary has asked for an update (the previous week).

9. Liaison Meeting with Transport for Wales

The chair attended the Transport for Wales Liaison Meeting held recently. The slides presented to the meeting are to be made available to those who are members of the Committee together with the minutes of that meeting when they are released next week by TfW Officer Lowri Joyce,

10. Future Plan 2020-2025

The current plan for the Committee ends in 2020 and a new plan has been drafted which went out for consultation earlier in the year.

The Future Plan 2020-2025 was approved subject to the following amendments/additions:

- i) Add support for a direct daily service Aberystwyth to London service.
- ii) Add support for infrastructure resilience (ie flood defences).
- iii) Page 5 (iv) strike out reference to clockface timetables.
- iv) Page 7 policy R6 – add requirement for improved facilities at Dovey Junction (shelters and indicator board).

A copy of the final approved plan will be posted on the web site with the minutes of this meeting.

11. Transport for Wales Report

The meeting received a report from Transport for Wales as follows:

- i) A lot of work has been completed to make passengers as safe as possible with regard to Covid 19.
- ii) A plan is being put in place to help passengers travel safely over the Christmas period.
- iii) All are encouraged to look on the TfW web site and use online ticket reservations along with checking train capacity tracker.
- iv) Bow Street Station is due to open on 14th February with an official opening on 1st March 2021.



- v) TfW is working with Network Rail regarding rail infrastructure works on the Cambrian Lines 2020/2021.
- vi) Some survey work is being done to assess the level of Christmas usage across the network.
- vii) Lowri Joyce gave some links to the meeting on the Chat Page for both Network Rail Resilience and the December 2020 timetables. These are available on the Network Rail and TfW web sites.

12. Reports from

a) Network Rail

There was no specific report but a list of questions will be prepared at the end of the meeting for Clair Hickman.

b) Cambrian Rail Partnership

No report received.

c) British Transport Police

No report received.

13. Consultation on Wales Transport Strategy

The Committee responded to the Strategy Consultation earlier in the year. There is a further consultation on Wales transport which is now open for comment. The secretary will publish the consultation on the web site along with a draft response for comment by members.

14. Any other business

To consider any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

i) New train sets for Cambrian Lines including through trains

There is still some serious concern by members relating to the new stock being delivered in 2021/2022. In particular the issues are:

- a) Level of seating capacity.
- b) Level of toilet provision on each train.
- c) Confusion over how many trains will be fitted with a signalling system suitable for the Cambrian Lines.

The minutes of a recent Transport for Wales (Wales wide) Liaison Meeting may clarify some of these points. The minutes will be issued to members when they are available.



ii) Barmouth Bridge Works

A request to extend the rail service up to Morfa Mawddach was put forward.

iii) Signalling system for Cambrian Lines

It was agreed that the secretary would approach Network Rail to seek more detail on what the £3m spend on signalling (Cambrian Lines) is made up of.

iv) Post Covid 19 passenger numbers

The level of train travel following Covid 19 is uncertain with many employees working from home and unlikely to return to the regular office environment.

A lot of publicity will be needed to promote the railways following Covid 19.

v) Network Rail Works notifications

Some concern was expressed over the late notification or lack of notification on railway closures, The secretary is to raise the matter with Network Rail.

vi) 2017 SARLC Survey

A copy of the 2017 survey results is to be made available to members.

vii) Dementia Friendly Cambrian Lines

The offer from the Committee to complete a Dementia Assessment for the Cambrian Lines is still on the table.

Lowri Joyce will introduce the Committee to Dr Gravelle who is the officer at TfW with regard to access.

viii) Portable ERTMS system

A query over the introduction of a portable ERTMS system was put forward; the secretary will ask Network Rail about any progress.

15. Date of next meeting

The dates for the next meeting were confirmed as Friday 19th February 2020 at 11.15am by Zoom.



16. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the dates of the future full meeting as follows:

Friday 14th May 2021 at 11.15am
Friday 15th July 2021 at 11.15am
Friday 15th October 2021 at 11.15am

Meetings will be held at Machynlleth Bowling Club (if restrictions allow) or by Zoom.

17. Actions being taken forward

The following actions are being taken forward from the meeting:

Ref	Action	By
1	Minutes of the meeting to be prepared, emailed to the members and posted on the web site.	Robert Robinson
2	Final copy of the future plan 2020-2025 to be posted on the web site as approved.	Robert Robinson
3	Copy of invoice for PCC to Ray Quant.	Robert Robinson
4	Chase up payment by County Councils for current year grants.	Robert Robinson
5	Update on list of outstanding items by Transport for Wales.	Lowri Joyce
6	Seek clarification with Network Rail as to responsibility for indicator boards not on station platforms.	Robert Robinson
7	Obtain update from Nigel Brinn of PCC on Caersws Station car park.	Robert Robinson
8	Seek confirmation from Welsh Government regarding actions from last meeting with Welsh Government.	Robert Robinson
9	Issue copies of slides from TfW Wales wide Liaison Meeting to be issued to members.	Trevor Roberts & Robert Robinson
10	Publish to members and via web site the consultation on Wales Transport Strategy along with a proposed response for comment.	Robert Robinson
11	Gain Welsh Government confirmation that existing Cambrian Line services through to Birmingham will be safeguarded. (via Minister)	Robert Robinson
12	Seek confirmation from Network Rail some detail on how the £3m signalling improvements to the Cambrian Line are made up.	Robert Robinson



Ref	Action	By
13	Seek a regular update on proposed works by Network Rail affecting passenger services.	Robert Robinson
14	Introduction to Dementia Officer to Committee – follow up offer to complete the assessment.	Lowri Joyce & Robert Robinson
15	The secretary to seek clarification from Network Rail regarding progress towards a portable ERTMS system.	Robert Robinson
16	Issue Future Policy Plan 2020-2021 to both Welsh Government and Transport for Wales	Robert Robinson



Pwyllgor Cyswilt Rheilffordd Aberystwyth Amwythig
Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee

