



MINUTES

of the quarterly meeting of the Association held on Friday 20th October 2023

at the offices of Rhyl Town Council,
Civic Offices, Wellington Community Centre
at 10.30am in person and by video link

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge (Chair)	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies (Vice Chair)	Flint Town council
Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE (President)	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Jeannette Chamberlain-Jones	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Lynda Carter	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Community Council
Cllr Lynda Griffiths	Towyn & Kinmell Bay Town Council
Cllr Shirley Jones Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Barry Mellor	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Peter Morgan	St Asaph City Council
Gareth Nicols	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Ted Palmer	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Adrian West	Prestatyn Town Council
Daryn Wilcox	Penmaenmawr Town Council
Robert Robinson MBE (Secretary)	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Part of the meeting the Independent Review Panel of Wales members attended.

Apologies for absence received from

Cllr Vivienne Blondak	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Bill Crease	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Paul hinge	
Cllr Carol Holliday	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Alan James	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Bob Murray	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Alan Owen	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Mike Pearce	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Suzanne Wilson	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town council

A lot of members were hoping to attend but due to the very poor weather conditions could not get there.

1. Welcome

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

The Mayor of Rhyl Town Council - Jacquie McAlpine -addressed the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in July 2023. The only alteration being to note that Cllr Helen Roberts should be noted under Conwy Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Joan Butterfield and seconded by Cllr Lynette Edwards. The vote was unanimous.

3. Actions taken from the last meeting

The meeting noted the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

Item	Status
Prepared and publish minutes	Completed
Report on future membership of association	Report at this meeting
Complete rail surveys and report	Completed
Progress with new web site with new information format	Completed
Prepare and launch a Facebook page	Prepared
Arrange to meet Minister's Office regarding A55 traffic maybe on zoom at a future meeting.	Report at this meeting
Youth forum meeting to be held	Completed

The meeting considered the details of the matters to be raised with the Minister's Office regarding the A55 so that a meeting can be arranged. The Chair is to consult with those needed to come up with a plan.

5. Executive

The meeting noted the executive meeting minutes from the meeting held on 21st September 2023.

6. Finance and governance

The meeting received a financial report with bank balances reported as £4,306.45pm. This is lower than usual due to the membership fee notices not going out until after this meeting.

Members were asked to note their council's name on BACS payments so that the secretary can see where the payment has come from.

The Audit of the accounts to 31st March 2023 is well in hand.

7. Future role of the Association

The meeting received a report from the Chair on membership arrangements into the future for the Association proposing no change to current situation. The meeting **AGREED** that arrangements will be made asap for hybrid meetings. The meeting also noted that although each member council may send multiple representatives (up to 3 plus the Clerk) this does not affect voting as in all cases it is one vote per council.

9. Transport Committee

To receive a presentation on the rail surveys completed in the past two months and to consider an update on the results and the actions the Association should consider taking forward.

A youth forum for North and Mid Wales was held with no attendees. There is a short report on transport within the document from Llanfair Caereinion' Youth Council.

Many members gave accounts of their travel experiences which support what the document outlines.

The meeting also confirmed the statement 'unsafe bordering on dangerous – possible illegal'.

After discussion it was **AGREED** to the following:

- i) To adopt the report
- ii) To publish the document widely
- iii) To issue the report to Welsh Government, TFW, ORR and Health and Safety.
- iv) To seek a meeting with the minister and with the CEO of TFW
- v) The youth view should be sought from individual local council youth forums.
- vi) Further surveys to be completed in November.
- vii) The secretary with support from the Chair to deal with interviews and press coverage.

10. Consultation

To consider a consultation by Welsh Government regarding the increase in numbers of members for the Senedd. It was agreed that the members needed more information so the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

11. Consultation on Local Councils and representation

A consultation has just been published by the Welsh Government and details will be sent to each member over the next week.

13. Independent Review Panel for Wales

The meeting received a presentation by zoom from the IRPW regarding the annual report for 2024-2025.

The main matters arising out of the report were:

- i) The basic allowances are tax free – a letter on the subject is being issued.
- ii) The dates of issue of the report (out of line for setting budgets) are set in statute. The IRPW was asked to consider the dates again.
- iii) The view was put forward that mandatory should mean that. However with the new rules on publishing those taking allowances this was not considered necessary.
- iv) The new rules do not require individual members to be identified but an overall figure only is now allowed.

The secretary is to write to the IRPW to confirm the above views.

14. Date of next meeting

The meeting noted the dates for future meetings.

15. Actions being taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward from the meeting:

No	Subject	By
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Secretary
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Secretary
3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Chair
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Secretary
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	Secretary
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Secretary
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Secretary