



## **MINUTES**

**of the quarterly meeting of the Association held on  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 10.30am at  
Connah's Quay Civic Halls and by Zoom**

### **Present were**

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell
Cllr Norma Davies Vice Chair	Flint
Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE	Rhyl
Cllr Haydn Bateman	Northrop
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley
Cllr Jeanette Chamberlain Jones	Rhyl
Cllr Linda Corbet	
Cllr Bill Crease	Connah's Quay
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys
Cllr Linda Griffiths	Towyn & Kinmell Bay
Cllr Patrick Heeson	Mostyn
Cllr Carol Holliday	Prestatyn
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Towyn and Kinmell Bay
Cllr Alan Manship	Connah's Quay
Cllr Bob Murray	Prestatyn
Cllr Alan Owen	Connah's Quay
Cllr Ted Palmer	Holywell
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy
Suzanne Wilson	Connah's Quay (Clerk)
Robert Robinson MBE Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion

### **And via video link**

Cllr Shirley Jones Roberts	Abergele
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris
Cllr Peter Morgan	City of St Asaph
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele

### **Apologies received**

Cllr Stephen Beach	Ruthin
Cllr Paul Fletcher	Abergele
Cllr James	Rhyl
Gareth Nicols	Rhyl
Cllr Jabez Oakes	Ruthin
Cllr Michael Pearce	Llandudno
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy



### **1. Welcome**

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

The meeting also received a welcome and short address to the meeting by the Mayor of Connah's Quay Cllr Alan Manship.

### **2. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting**

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in January 2024.

### **3. Emma Hallett from Welsh Government (re-cycling rules)**

The meeting received a Zoom presentation on the new re-cycling laws which came in on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The main points were:

#### **Commercial or council buildings**

All buildings must separate their waste.

No food waste maybe put into the sewer system.

If the council uses a company who separates their waste for them this does not remove the obligation to sort on site.

#### **Defined activities such as festivals**

Activities such as festivals, carnivals etc are subject to the rules and separate bins for recycling will be required for the various types of waste.

#### **Litter picking**

Litter picking was covered in some detail.

It is suggested that two litter bags are used, one for recyclable materials and one for general waste.

#### **Litter bins**

The County Councils are exempt from the legislation with regard to general litter bins. The Town and Community Councils do not have such exemption but are Considered to be acting as agents for the litter authority and as such will only be required to provide general litter bins with no requirement to sort such litter.

#### **Enforcement**

It was pointed out by the speaker that enforcement will be the soft approach. Some members were concerned that a hard approach would not be acceptable.

Enforcement is to be a last resort with education being the best way of monitoring and delivering the schemes.

The slides will be circulated by the secretary as soon as he receives this.



The president was concerned after the presentation that it gave the impression that South Wales over North Wales left us as second best.

#### 4. Actions taken from the last meeting

To note the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

No	Subject	Status
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Completed
2	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	Completed. Meeting offered before awaited
3	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	Completed. Meeting offered before awaited.
4	Invite Fields in Trust to the October meeting	Arranged.
5	Invite someone from re-cycling to advise on the responsibilities of Town and Community Councils regarding the new scheme to the April meeting	At the meeting noted here.
6	Add to the next agenda an item on Libraries.	On the agenda for the meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> April.
7	Issue list of members councils	Completed.
8	Issues regarding the Deganwy crossing and direct trains to Llandudno in the summer to be discussed with Network Rail & TFW to gain a resolution.	Still under discussion.
9	Youth Safeguarding meeting to be notified to all members.	Completed.
10	Respond to homeless consultation	Completed.
11	Respond to National Park consultation	Completed.

#### 5. Executive

The meeting noted the minutes of the executive meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.



## **6. Finance and governance**

The meeting noted the current bank balances.

The secretary expressed concern at the cost of venues which are influencing the bank balances of the Association. The Executive will be asked to come up with a plan for 2024-2025 to redress this situation.

## **7. Transport update**

The meeting received a report on the February rail surveys. There has been an announcement of changes to the timetables from December 2024 (consultation period started).

The main points of note are:

- i) Trains from Llandudno to Manchester Airport are to be withdrawn and replaced with a Llandudno to Liverpool Lime Street service.
- ii) The Llandudno to Manchester Airport service is moved to being Holyhead to Manchester Airport.
- iii) There is a reduction in some services, and particularly the Cambrian Coast.

Issues around poor journeys and overcrowding continue.

## **8. Charities managed by local councils**

The meeting received some basic information on the management of Trusts and Charities administered by Local Councils.

The main points were:

### **Type of charity (councils)**

There are two main types of charity. Those with trustees and those where the council is the trustee (i.e. a corporate trustee). In the case of the former trustees are listed on the Charity Commission annual return whereas a corporate trustee is the council.

### **Trust management**

The Trustee or Trustees should meet on a separate night to the council meetings. The Trustee/Trustees should act only in the interest of the Charity or Trust.

### **Trusts with an income**

Where the trust or charity has an income which covers expenditure all is fine. If there are beneficiaries then the excess of income over expenditure should be distributed in accordance with the Trust Governing document.



### **Trusts with no income but cost to run**

Most Trusts/Charities managed by councils are so managed with the council as a corporate Trustee. Where there is no income but there are outgoings the Trustee has to find the money, often from the council budget.

If the council re-charges the costs to the Trust there must be a management agreement in place so that VAT can be claimed. If there is no management agreement VAT may not be claimed.

Often the council gives a grant and then re-charges the costs to an equal amount. However, a better way is for the council to just pay the costs under section 137. It helps with clarity in accounts and you can claim the VAT back.

If anyone is unsure about the above please contact the secretary or seek Advice to ensure you are doing things right.

### **9. Martyn's Law standard tier consultation – anti terrorism and Local Councils**

Following the publication of the long-awaited Martyn's Law standard tier consultation in February the Home Office have announced details of the proposed law with interested public sector bodies which may own or manage buildings and premises falling in scope of the standard tier of the draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, including local (town, parish and community) councils. Any premises or defined land where people pay or are given tickets to enter come within the proposed legislation if they can take 100 persons or more.

Once the Act is in place a report will be given to the Association setting out the Practical requirements.

### **10. Libraries – contributions by Local Councils**

Members shared information on how each member council supports its local library service. There were several schemes in place.

The members pointed out that libraries also act as meeting places and warm hubs.

The meeting **Approved** sending a letter to Flintshire County Council regarding clarification on the future of libraries as it is understood the current contract with a provider is coming to an end.

### **11. Future delivery of services by county councils**

The meeting noted that notice had been put down by county councils who are looking from April 2026 to only provide what they have to as a duty. This will mean many services will be removed as there is nothing else to cut and the money has run out. The duties of a County Council are mainly social services, education, some highways and regulation. Almost everything else is optional.

Some council's areas managed better than others with varying successes.





Many Town and Community Councils will need to consider what services they wish to protect in their area and what money is available. There may be some tough choices to be made in each area.

## **12. Elections and governance of Welsh Government**

The meeting considered the final consultation on the addition of 18 more assembly members and the proposed voting system (i.e. larger areas with political lists).

The meeting **AGREED** that the secretary should respond to the consultation as follows:

- i) To object to the addition of any more assembly members.
- ii) To object to the proposed voting system and support the status quo.

## **13. Ceredigion Council**

The meeting noted the boundary commission report regarding Ceredigion which is the first of the counties to be reviewed. The proposal is that all Town and Community councils should cease and that new larger ones are put in their place.

This was considered to be a very important subject for the Association and should be a main item for the Executive with a report for the next meeting.

## **14. Meeting with Minister for North Wales and Transport**

A meeting with the Minister and or top officials regarding transport is being arranged and with agreement reached. A date is to be set soon.

## **15. Homeless**

A possible scheme to help with the homeless situation was presented by Cllr Lynette Edwards is to be considered at the next Executive Meeting and report made to the next meeting.

## **16. Date of next meeting**

The meeting noted the date of the next meeting being Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 10.30am in the Civic Halls, Connah's Quay. This will also be the annual meeting.

## **17. Actions to be taken forward**

The following actions are to be taken forward shown overleaf.



Ref	Activity
1	Publish and circulate minutes of the meeting.
2	Write a letter to Welsh Government on the consultation set out in minute no 12.
3	Write to Flintshire Council regarding libraries.
4	Circulate presentation on recycling to members.
5	Arrange the meeting with Welsh Government on transport.
6	Executive to consider a paper on the homeless project.
7	Rail meetings to consider items raised regarding Llandudno Station, Deganwy crossing and Prestatyn footbridge.
8	Report from the boundary commission on Ceredigion to be considered in detail by the Executive with a report back.