



MINUTES

**of the quarterly meeting of the
Association held on
Friday 19th January 2024
at 10.30am at
Venue Cymru Llandudno & via video link**

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell
Cllr Norma Davies Vice Chair	Flint
Cllr Greg Robbins (Mayor)	Llandudno
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley
Cllr Bill Crease	Connah's Quay
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys
Cllr Shirley Jones Roberts	Abergele
Cllr Alan Manship	Connah's Quay
Cllr Alan Owen	Connah's Quay
Cllr Ted Palmer	Holywell
Cllr Michael Pearce	Llandudno
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley
Cllr Helen Roberts	Colwyn
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy
Robert Robinson MBE Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion

And via video link

Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Towyn and Kinmell Bay
Cllr Peter Morgan	City of St Asaph

Apologies received were from

Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE	Rhyl Town council
Cllr Jeanette Chamberlain Jones	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Paul Fletcher	Abergele
Cllr Linda Griffiths	Towyn & Kinmell Bay
Cllr Bob Murray	Rhyl
Cllr Allen Owen	Connah's Quay
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele



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 Llandudno Cllr

2. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in October 2023.

3. Fields in Trust

The representative from Fields in Trust was not able to attend due to a friend's bereavement. They will be invited to attend at the October meeting.

In the meantime the secretary gave an outline with the following information given:

- i) Fields in trust seeks to protect land used for open space for the future This is done by identification of such land and then a covenant entered into with the
- ii) Fields in Trust to protect the land. This is a legal document that would be registered on the land registry certificate.
- iii) If such land is not registered (many areas are not) it maybe need to be so and this comes with a cost.
- iv) The covenant would say that the land may only be used for open space and if it is to cease being that use an equivalent area of land in the community is to be provided before the existing use ends.
- v) An explanation was given to the meeting of the various types of covenants (positive & negative, personal and running with the land) by the secretary.

4. A55 expressway

A discussion took place regarding the A55 not only around Penmaemawr but along its length.

The secretary explained that he had been contacted by the clerk of Penmaemawr with regard to the increase in accidents on the eastbound carriageway of the A55 near their area.

The meeting **AGREED** to write to the Trunk Road Agency to support actions to be taken to help with that situation.



The other aspects discussed included:

- i) Now that Holyhead is to become a freeport the A55 is more important.
- ii) When road works or accidents close or restrict the road the traffic control and alternative routes are not well managed with many residential and town centre areas affected badly.
- iii) Avoiding traffic congestion helps keep cars moving and reduces pollution.
- iv) The area of the A55 at Aston Hill was highlighted.

The members **AGEED** that the meeting with Welsh Government should now take place regarding the A55.

Attending the meeting should be Cllr Ian Hodge Chair, Robert Robinson Secretary, Cllr Vivienne Blondek, Cllr Ted Palmer and Cllr Alan Owen.

If the meeting is in person Cllr Ian Hodge and Robert Robinson to attend with others on video link.

If the meeting is to be held in Llandudno, then all could attend in person.

5. Actions taken from the last meeting

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

No	Subject	Status
1	Issue minutes and post of web site	Completed
2	Issue details of the Welsh Government consultation on representation	Completed
3	Consider and issue details of what improvements are sought to the A55	See item 4 on these minutes.
4	Publish the rail report and press release regarding the rail surveys	Completed
5	Arrange meetings with the Minister and TFW regarding the rail surveys	See item 8 of these minutes.
6	Arrange for future meetings to be hybrid.	Being arranged
7	Letter to be sent to the IRPW	Completed

6. Executive

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

7. Financial and governance.

The meeting received a financial report. The current bank balance is £5,788.39p.



8. Transport Committee

8.1 Update on survey report

The meeting was given an update on rail matters with the following of note:

- i) Further surveys in February being undertaken focusing on the North Coast and Cambrian Lines link to Birmingham International.
- ii) Trains, formations and timetables.
- iii) Changes to be taken forward following the survey such as the Shrewsbury to Holyhead via Chester.

- iv) The meeting just noted the proposal in the press regarding a link from Banger to Porthmadog at a cost of approx. £2b.
- v) The meeting noted the proposal for a Shrewsbury Parkway station on the eastern side of Shrewsbury.
- vi) The reports on ticket sales and pricing were highlighted and care taken as the press were not comparing like with like. (ie comparing a day ticket with an advance ticket).
- vii) There was not update on electrification of the north coast line for the meeting.

8.2 Deganwy Crossing and services to Llandudno

The issues around the pedestrian crossing at Deganwy were discussed. This is still an issue with regard to re-opening.

The issues around the summer services to Llandudno were considered and a discussion needs to take place with Network Rail and TFW to resolve this.

The secretary is to host discussions with Network Rail/TFW to gain a resolution.

9. Holywell (Greenfield Station)

The Chair outlined progress towards the provision of a new station at Holywell.

The meeting **AGREED** that the secretary should write to Network Rail, TFW and Welsh Government supporting the proposed station and pushing for the project to move forward asap.

10. Homeless

The meeting considered the White Paper on Homeless in Wales.

The secretary is to respond the consultation taking the following into account:

- i) A paper on the consultation on the White Paper were issued with the agenda.
- ii) The main concerns were 'where are the homes going to come from' and 'who is going to fund this'.



- iii) It was noted that Denbighshire was approx. £2.5m over budget on homeless provision.
- iv) The meeting was not sure how the proposals would operate – there was a danger of it not being workable.
- v) There needs to be a clear definition of any ‘tests’ applied.
- vi) The intended consequences need better assessment.
- vii) Those homeless due to mental health needs to be a priority.
- viii) Government needs to extend financing to provide a lot more social housing.
- ix) Provisions should allow for easier movement of existing tenants (ie from a 4 bed house not need to a small property).
- x) Buying back properties to increase housing stock should be considered.

11. National Park for North East Wales

The meeting considered the consultation on the proposed new national park for North East Wales.

The Association wishes to be involved in the consultation.

The following were discussed and are to form a response to the consultation:

- i) A paper on the National Park consultation was issued with the agenda.
- ii) It was not clear what benefits would be in place for areas just outside the park area.
- iii) Concern over effect of more traffic through small towns and villages.
- iv) Llanfair Caereinion Town Council decision to object to the park to be included. Copy at appendix A (minute).
- v) There will be another level of planning and council tax levied.
- vi) The affect on farming is an issue to the rural parts of the members area.
- vii) Loss of County Council control over National Park area.
- viii) There will be a County Council representative (from each of the 5) on the Planning Committee of the National Park.

12. Other items of business were:

12.1 Recycling & fly tipping

Due to the extensive changes in recycling a representative from an authority to be invited to the next meeting to outline the changes and give members a chance to understand the implications for them. This to include fly tipping which is on the increase.

**12.2 Public libraries**

A discussion on public libraries and contributions from Town and Community Councils took place. A representative from the Library Service (Denbighshire) is to be invited to speak to the members at the meeting to be held in July after the AGM.

12.3 Youth Safeguarding

The meeting noted the work by Connah's Quay Town Council on this subject and the meeting being held at the **Civic Halls Connah's Quay on 6th February 2024 with three sessions (10-12, 1-3 and 7-9)**. The secretary to notify members of the meetings.

12.4 Member councils

It was agreed that the secretary will issue a current list of members.

13. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting – Friday 19th April 2024.
Venue to be advised.

14. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

No	Item
1	Prepare minutes of the meeting and post on website
2	Invite Fields in Trust to the October meeting
3	Invite someone from re-cycling to advise on the responsibilities of Town and Community Councils regarding the new scheme to the April meeting
4	Add to the next agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Libraries and contributions from town and community councils for the July meeting with speaker ii) Recycling and the responsibilities of town and community councils for the April meeting with speaker to include fly tipping
5	Issue list of members councils
6	Arrange Welsh Government meeting on A55 as per minute.



7	Issues regarding the Deganwy crossing and direct trains to Llandudno in the summer to be discussed with Network Rail & TFW to gain a resolution.
8	Youth Safeguarding meeting to be notified to all members.
9	Respond to homeless consultation
10	Respond to National Park consultation
11	Inform town and community councils in the National Park area of our activities.

APPENDIX A**MINUTE – LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL**

Minute no 97 of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 27th November 2024.

97. New national park for north Wales

The meeting considered the consultation papers on a proposed new National Park which will include land within the Llanfair Caereinion ward boundary.

During the debate the following were of note:

- i) Consultation process did not allow people to join by video link when it was requested.
- ii) The boundaries for the new national park are still not settled.
- iii) The scheme was in the Labour manifesto for Welsh Government.
- iv) Funding issues around extra cost for planning applications and also a levy on the local council tax for those in (and possibly around) the national park.
- v) Planning applications will involve an extra level of approval by the National Park Authority created affecting property both in and immediately around the park.
- vi) Any renewable energy/power lines are covered by the Wales Strategic Plan and will override the National Park Authority.
- vii) Concern that the decisions are being made by stealth.
- viii) It has been shown that house prices in and immediately around a national park (increase approx. 25%). This could lead to the issue of affordability to local people and could encourage more second homes. (evidenced by other national park areas such as the Lake District)
- ix) 22% of Wales is already a national park, the addition of the proposed national park would increase this to approx. 40%.
- x) In theory the national park could bring more tourism to the area.



xi) If there is substantially more tourism there are issues with road structure and traffic.

The meeting **AGREED to object to the proposal** on the following grounds:

i) Any national park should exclude any part of the Llanfair Caereinion ward.

The council does not wish to see half its ward in the national park and half not.

ii) Further precept cost to residents is unwelcome.

iii) The effect on houses prices (which often happens) would price local people out of an already unaffordable market.

iv) The extra planning regulations are unwelcome.