

# NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



## CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

of a meeting held on  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at**  
**11.15am** in Aberystwyth  
and by Zoom

#### Present

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair
Robert Robinson	Secretary
James Nicholas	TFW
Anne Alias	Ceredigion Council
Angus Eickhoff	SARPA
Cllr Mark Strong	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr Alun Williams	Aberystwyth Town Council/Ceredigion Council

#### Apologies

Gail Jones	TFW
Cllr Ben Gwalchmai	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr Ian Hodge	Holywell Town Council & Chair of North Coast Committee
Ken Law	Welshpool Facebook Group
Bob Saxby	
Cllr Jeff Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council/SARPA
Cllr Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Community Council
Cllr Dyland Wilson-Lewis	Rail Future

**1. Welcome by the chair** The meeting received a welcome from the chair.

**2. One minutes silence in memory** The meeting held a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Michael Williams.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting** The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

**4. Appointment of a vice chair**

The meeting considered the appointment of a vice chair (the constitution requires the chair and vice chair to be elected Councillors). It was **AGREED** that members will consider nominations at the next meeting in March.

**5. Update and discussion**

An update and discussion led by the secretary and TFW covering the following subjects including those raised at the meeting with the CEO and Welsh Government on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024:

Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August

There were a range of actions to be completed from this meeting with TFW promising to respond by 30<sup>th</sup> September. To date there has been no response.

*The secretary has made representations to gain the responses required.*

Clarification on the agreement regarding the Welshpool footbridge to be sought with regards to cleaning and gritting. **Update provided to Robert and Trevor on 2.10.24 at meeting in Shrewsbury, basically matter is in hand, but still waiting on the finer details of who will do what but have been giving assurances that gritting will be carried out. Casey Dunn from NMWTRA is on leave until next week, so not able to gain any further update until next week. The secretary to continue to chase to gain a result on this subject.**

Update on 'call points' at all stations to be sought. **BT are currently switching from analogue to digital, this will affect 42 of our station help points rendering them void. We have secured budget in this financial year (24-25) to replace 20 of these, we will seek additional funding for the financial year (25-26) to replace the remaining 22. Welshpool is not one of these.** Further investigation has found that the Welshpool "help point" is not a "help point" but an "information point" i.e. calls are not answered, information is just relayed as per CIS screen. The "information point" will be removed as it is not used and only duplicates the information on the CIS screen. A business case for the financial budget 26-27 is being put together to install/upgrade "help points" in all other stations on a priority basis. Please note that Teleri Evans (Customer Information Strategy Manager) will be presenting at the forthcoming Transport Liaison Group Meeting, will be discussing help points, CIS and request stop trials in further detail and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

*The meeting did not find this situation acceptable.*

Update on status of abandoned car in Welshpool station car park. **Signs have been ordered and should be in place within the next couple of weeks. "Vehicles left at owner's risk. This car park is reserved for rail users only" the station manager is planning on visiting the station on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October and will check the cars while he is there. If we do have abandoned cars, we can now place a 28 day removal notice on them, if they are not removed within this time the BTP will arrange removal. The meeting noted the information.**

Update on 'no CIC indicator boards along platforms at Dovey Junction to give information in the area where the train leaves on the Aberystwyth platform. I have spoken to the station manager who advises that the signage at Dovey Junction was surveyed and the number of direction boards on fence reflects this. It is felt that no further signs are required. We have not received any reports of passengers missing trains etc. And asks if the rail user group able to provide further detail please? *The meeting noted the information.*

Train announcements continue to be poor – training issues. I believe that there has been much improvement in respect of announcement but agree that on the odd occasion they can be quiet and muffled. Will continue to provide feedback and monitor the situation. *The meeting noted the information.*

Update on bus interchange at Machynlleth Station to be sought. Site visit planned for mid-November between NR, TFW, and LA's, nothing to report at this stage, will keep you updated as and when I have anything to share. *The meeting noted the information.*

Some buses timetabled to stop at Machynlleth Station but stop short. Information on why this is happening to be sought. *Is this rail replacement buses ? The meeting confirmed that this relates to the normal bus services.*

Update on progress with including a 1630 ex Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth train into the timetable. Requires retiming of a freight service to implement, but we are now looking to introduce this additional service from May 2025, subject to other operators and Network Rail approval. *The meeting noted the information.*

An update on when Colin Lee can meet with the Cambrian Line Chair and Secretary to look at the hourly train service to Aberystwyth splitting a Shrewsbury. Meeting arranged for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at Shrewsbury Library. *The meeting noted the information.*

Following £6 million being spent on a new Park and Ride station at Bow Street that no bus services seem to call and use the station. We have investigated this with the Traws Cymru team to be able to provide you with a response. The key reason for the change was to improve the reliability and punctuality of the T2 service between Machynlleth and Aberystwyth. As you know the T2 service provides connections to rail services in Aberystwyth and the Traws Cymru services T1, T1C and T5 and it connects with the T12 in Machynlleth and the T3 in Dolgellau for onward journeys. Without the changes to improve the reliability and punctuality the bus connections would have experienced higher levels of disruption and would have had a significant impact on the passengers using the service, on what is primarily a two hourly frequency for bus connections. Taking the T2 service into the station was adding a minimum of 2 minutes to the journey time northbound and 3 minutes southbound. The T2 bus service still stops near the station. We do occasionally receive feedback about Bow Street. The feedback is around repurposing the bus shelters in the car park to the roadside to provide some shelter from the weather whilst waiting for the bus. If the train is not operating and rail replacement services are needed at this location, they

will of course be pulling into the station and not stopping on the roadside. *The meeting noted the information.*

Shrewsbury to Chester services. *The Association is still awaiting formal confirmation of 4 car units between Shrewsbury and Chester. A meeting covering this point is being held very soon.*

Dementia and station audits. *A lot the subjects on these matters will be covered at the TLG meeting in Cardiff in November.*

Welsh Government meeting re surveys. *This meeting is still awaited and a date is being sought by Russell George Senedd Member.*

Overcrowding and number of units. *The meeting noted that there are still no confirmation of how TFW is to address overcrowding on many trains. The number of train units is not enough to deliver the services required.*

Surveys 2025. *Further surveys to be held in 2025 are being planned.*

Shrewsbury station signage and support staff. *The new station ambassadors are in place and it is working well in most cases. There is also new signage to help with trains in platforms where there are two trains in the same platform.*

Reporting on train performance. *The train performance figures given at the last meeting by a TFW representative were only a snapshot of one line on one day and are to be disregarded.*

## **6. Reports from Network Rail**

The meeting **AGREED** that Thomas from Network Rail be asked to attend with particular reference to any plans for Shrewsbury Station. (11<sup>th</sup> March)

## **7. Other subjects**

### **7.1 West Midland Trains**

#### **7.2 Catering on the Cambrian Coast**

The meeting noted that there are no plans to remove catering on the Cambrian Coast Trains. There is some talk of industrial actions over conditions of service.

#### **7.3 Members of the group**

The secretary is to update the membership list and seek replacement members where the post has been vacant. The Cambrian Coast is to be asked if Anne Lloyd-Jones can remain their representative.

## 8. Date of next meeting

Joint meeting by Zoom	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 10.30am
North Coast Meeting by Zoom	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10.30am
Cambrian Lines Hybrid Meeting	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 11.15am
Joint meeting by Zoom	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 10.30am