



MINUTES

of a meeting of the Joint Cambrian and North Wales Coast Transport Committee's held on
Friday 4th July 2025 at 10.30am by Zoom

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies Vice Chair	Flint Town Council
James Nicholas	TFW
Nick Smith	Avanti Trains
Cllr Alyn Ashworth	Denbigh Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Angus Eikhoff	SARPA
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Patrick Hessom	Mostyn Community Council
CllrR Jones	
Ken Law	Welshpool Face Book Users Group
Cllr Chris Lemon	Shropshire Council
Cllr Ian Llifford	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Doreen Mackie	
Cllr Peter Morton	City of St Asaph Council
Cllr Jeff Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town Council
Robert Robinson Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Apologies for absence received from

Cllr Jeremy Barnes Cllr
John Edison
Cllr Dr Ben Gwalchmai Cllr
Trevor Roberts
Cllr Andrew Wallbank

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the chair.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last joint meeting. Proposed by Cllr M Davies and seconded by Cllr Norma Davies. The vote was unanimous.



3. Actions since the last meeting

The meeting noted the chart of the actions taken since the last meeting as set out below.

No	Heading	Action	Status
1	Minutes	Draft minutes to be circulated before	Completed publication
2	Minutes	Publish minutes on the web site	Completed
3	Chester-Shrewsbury train	Meeting with TFW regarding timetabling.	Completed
4	timetable Surveys	Action from previous meeting to meet WG Meeting held, regarding the A55 and survey results. Meeting agreed, date to be set.	WG wish more info on A55 matters
5	Cambrian rail closures to the secretary.	Full details including bus service times to be	Completed issued
6	Rail 200	The secretary is attending the event to celebrate 200 years of passenger rail travel in Aberystwyth on 23 rd Jan 2025.	Completed
7	TFW Letter	See (8) under item 3. Letter to be addressed to	Completed the NWA.
8	Shrewsbury station reversing out of and 5 to give are for which destination.	The station is to have markings on platforms 4 and 5 to give a better indication as to which discussion station) The trains are set up to take cards in the doors for destinations and this would be a quick and easy fix.	Ongoing (trains carriages
9	Bangor to Porthmadog study. He has had no response.	R Saxby had sent to the WG a copy of a update was given by A Williams in that a formal feasibility study is due to be completed about now. The meeting AGREED to support the reopening of this line. See appendix B for pictures and papers.	Completed line feasibility
10	Holyhead to Euston direct.	Consideration to be given (when trains restricted on weekends) to having two trains	Raised with weekend trains Avanti from Holyhead to Euston
11	Bangor to Porthmadog study. He has had no response.	R Saxby had sent to the WG a copy of a update was given by A Williams in that a formal feasibility study is due to be completed about now. The meeting AGREED to support the reopening of this line.	Completed line feasibility
12	Surveys	A plan for 2025 surveys can be completed following the meeting noted in (6) under item 3.	May survey complete, August one to be completed



4. Surveys

The meeting noted the results of the May survey.

The summer surveys will take place on 31st July, 13th August and 19th August. Once completed the results will be issued to members and a meeting with Welsh Government and TFW immediately following that.

5. Transport for Wales

The meeting received a report and update from TFW.

The main points were:

- i) Arrangements for buses between Wrexham station and the Eisteddfod are being arranged. (2-9th August)
- ii) Rail 200 train will be at Llandudno week beginning 15th November.
- iii) Passenger assistance points are being installed at Shrewsbury and Llandudno Junction stations.
- iv) On the Wrexham to Bidston Line the class 230 trains are providing better performance.
- v) The passenger numbers on the Cambrian Line are increasing from 90,000 in March to 100,000 in June. This could just be seasonal.
- vi) It was noted that the number of carriages provided on most North Coast lines was inadequate.
- vii) Reports of toilet issues have been received.
- viii) Issues around the provision of replacement bus services at Welshpool were noted. There needs to be an electronic sign need to be installed in the main car park.
- ix) There are issues around the early morning first train out of Welshpool. It is meant to arrive with 4 carriages with two going onto Shrewsbury and two going back to Aberystwyth. Recently there have been days when a twocarriage train turns up and there is confusion as to which way it will then go. An issue for those working in Shrewsbury and Telford.
- x) The passenger situation has improved at Prestatyn since the Avanti service has improved with fewer cancellations.
- xi) Reports of trains missing out station stops when overcrowded or late running are still evident. xii) Overcrowding continues – the surveys will give evidence to what level in July and August.
- xiii) Passenger assistance staff at Shrewsbury are not on the platform as often as they were.



- xiv) The white lining to identify the correct carriages for destinations at Shrewsbury is still awaited.
- xv) The electronic indications are still malfunctioning on occasions with trains 'on time' then 'delayed' with the train then arriving on time.
- xvi) Sign on Welshpool footbridge by the main car park needs to be put in place giving a number for any issues for passengers relating the carpark or footbridge.
- xvii) The view was expressed that we discuss many of the issues raised each time we meet with little apparent action, this needs to improve.
- xviii) A request to open the footpath at Shrewsbury from platform 3 to the English Bridge was made, this request is to be taken forward to TFW and Network Rail management for consideration.
- xix) The catering units in some class 197 trains are to be removed to all more seats to be provided.

A meeting with TFW has been held recently regarding many of the issues raised. James will take back the remaining ones to TFW management.

A meeting with TFW will take place immediately following completion of the next survey work.

6. Avanti Trains

The meeting received and report and update from Avanti.

The main points were:

- i) Cancellations along the North Coast have reduced from 20% at their peak to 5%. ii) Moving forward Avanti is seeking to have 10 trains an hour on all lines (5 each way).
- iii) It is planned to have 2 trains an hour from the North Coast line to Liverpool.
- iv) There is work taking place on introducing a better timetable for the North Coast line.
- v) There also now more London Euston to Chester trains in service.
- vi) It was noted that the West Coast line is now not subsidised and making a return to the government.
- vii) There is a stakeholder event with Avanti on 22nd September 2025.
- viii) There have been issues with late running trains late at night making missing connections an issue (last trains). A request to hold connecting trains if there is a small delay was received.
There was a reported instance of TFW refusing to hold a train for few minutes, this is to be taken up with TFW.

The presentation slides will be circulated to members after the meeting.



7. Network Rail

There was no specific report from Network Rail.

The issues around some crossings are still ongoing.

8. Buses

Any information on matters affecting buses in:

a) Mid Wales

The bus consultation along with approval to the finance has resulted in improvement bus services in Powys.

b) North Wales

People are getting used to the bus services affected by the 20mph limit. There were some issues around Rhyl (main line station) with buses turning creating hazards to drivers.

There were also some issues around Prestatyn (junction into High Street) again creating hazards to drivers.

9. Elections to Senedd May 2026

The contacts with Welsh Government may change and new ones will need to be established after the elections in May 2026.

10. Public attendance at meetings

The request for the public to be able to attend meetings is being discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

11. Actions going forward

The secretary will follow up all noted concerns with both TFW and Avanti with report on actions for the next meeting of both the North Coast and Cambrian lines in October 2025.

12. Date of the next meeting

The meeting noted the dates for future meetings as follows;

Cambrian

10th October 2025 – Aberystwyth and online

North Coast

3rd October 25 - Online