



MINUTES

of the quarterly meeting of the Association held on **Friday**
23rd January 2026 at 10.30am by Zoom

Present were:

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caersw Community Council
Cllr Patrick Heesom	Mostyn Community Council
Ian Isherwood	Senedd Member
Peris Jones (highways)	Welsh Government
Doreen Mackie	Shotton Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Robert Robinson Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Apologies received:

Cllr Jeanette Chaimberland-Jones	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies Vice Chair	Flint Town Council
Cllr Lynda Griffiths	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr James Kennedy	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley Town Council
Vicky Roberts	Rhyl Town Council

1. Welcome by the chair

The meeting received a welcome from the chair.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded at the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 24th October 2025.

4. Visiting representative from the Senedd regarding North Wales To receive a visiting speaker from the Trunk Road Agency for North Wales.

The main points raised are set out overleaf.

A494 Bridge replacement

Details of the replacement bridge have been published. It is hoped that this scheme can progress without the need for a public inquiry.

Wrexham western gateway

Improvements are planned for the Ruthin – Wrexham junction to improve capacity.

Brittania Bridge

The repairs to this bridge are almost complete. It is hoped that this will improve resilience. Consideration is being given to wind deflectors to aid the effects of the weather.

Welsh Government is working with Network rail on a survey of the bridge.

Variable speed limits are used on this bridge as required. Network rail own the bridge and it is also listed.

Transport A55/A494/A483 - review

Work is being done to see what the needs of these roads are along with looking at the assets supporting this. This will take around 6 months and the results considered by the next Welsh Government.

Aston Hill

There are plans for more improvements and new drainage.

Red route A494 – A55 (River Dee crossing)

It was pointed out that 2 lanes were not enough for this area of road. It was confirmed that the road is wide enough to take 3 lanes in the future. The question was asked ‘why not now’ as the need is acknowledged. The review will include this item.

Better use of the Flintshire Bridge would be an option to aid the traffic congestion.

Accidents on the A55

The number of accidents on the A55 on a daily basis was highlighted.

This is also to be part of the review. Members felt this situation should be considered urgently.

The Chair thanked Peris for his attendance.

5. Actions since the last meeting

The meeting received the actions taken since the last quarterly meeting as set out below:

No	Actions	Status
1	Complete draft minutes, circulate and post on website	Completed
2	Members to offer presentations to the local councils near to them and/or have left recently.	Ready
3	A draft heading for presentations to be circulate.	Completed
4	Arrange for a Welsh Government official or minister to visit the Association regarding road matters.	On agenda today

No	Actions	Status
5	Complete Holyhead ferry/train surveys.	Completed
6	Circulate adopted rail survey report.	Completed
7	Arrange for meeting with Stena Line, TFW and Avanti regarding Holyhead ferry/rail information.	Being arranged
8	Send shopping centre report out with free parking added as an issue.	Completed
9	Letter to Welsh Government on Tourism Tax.	Completed
10	Prepare a press release for circulation.	Completed

6. Finance and governance

The meeting considered the following:

6.1 Financial report

The last bank statement showed £4,200 as funds available.

6.2 Membership

Cllr Michael Davies confirmed that Llangefni is seeking to join the Association for the forthcoming year.

Holyhead Town Council has not renewed and the secretary is to follow this up.

Members are encouraged to approach local councils near them to make them aware of the Association and its work.

6.3 Audits

The secretary issued a paper from the audit office. The audits show an excessive number of qualified and even notices in the public interest.

The members were asked if there were any particular audit issues that are causing them concern when completing the audit. The members did not have a view on this.

7. Cambrian and North Wales Coast rail meeting

The meeting received a report on Rail Meeting held on 9th January 2025 in Shrewsbury.

The matter of the incident at Shotton was raised. This is where a person was found dead on the line at Shotton Station, the line was closed. Those wishing to get the west along the coast were bused from Chester to Prestatyn and left there on an unstaffed station for over an hour in very cold weather. Eventually another bus arrived and took them onto Rhyl. There was little information available. The concern is around the management of this incident. It was questioned why people were not kept at Chester where there were facilities, food etc but taken to Prestatyn. This matter is to be taken up with Transport for Wales and a report back to be given to the members.

8. Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Reporting

The meeting received an update on this new reporting requirement from this year and how it may affect your audit.

An example of a section 6 report is attached at appendix A.

9. Current legislation

9.1 Police and Crime Commissioners

The meeting noted that the role of the Police and Commissions role is to end in 2028. The meeting also noted that there is a plan to enlarge the police areas of operation.

9.2 Fire and ambulance service

A report on governance was presented by the chair. The current arrangement is that 28 elected members oversee this service and its governance. The plan is to reduce this to just one for each of the 6 authorities. The members did not find this acceptable and a letter of objection to the Welsh Government is to be prepared by the Chair and Secretary.

It was felt that the reduction was an attack on democracy. The issue of a reserve if a member was not able to attend was also raised.

9.3 Martyn's Law

The meeting noted the introduction of Martyn's Law and what it means for everyone. The guidance to go with the basic outline of the law is expected soon.

10. Date of the next meeting.

The meeting noted the date of the next meeting as follows:

Date 17th April 2026
Time 10.30am
Location The Guildhall Conway

11. Actions to be taken forward from the meeting

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

Ref	Item	By
1	Prepare and circulate minutes of the meeting	Secretary
2	Take up with TFW the emergency procedure with regard to the Shotton incident.	Secretary
3	Letter to be sent to Welsh Government regarding the Fire and Rescue services proposals.	Cllr Ian Hodge and Secretary
4	Arrange Holyhead port and rail companies meeting.	Secretary
5	Arrange meeting venue for 17 th April meeting – possibly Colwyn – now confirmed	Cllr Helen Roberts and Secretary

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Report 2025

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

- The council owns land at Deri Woods, Goat Field, Mount Field and other smaller areas. The council has a biodiversity plan and climate change plan. The council is not subject to the Well Being plans but does have one.
- All our policies and documents are posted on our website at www.llanfairtowncouncil.gov.uk.
- The plans include governance as to how sec 6 is met.

Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

- Short description of:
 - The plans in place are acted upon jointly between the town council and a volunteer group (FODW)
 - A review takes place annually on all council plans with a report on progress to achieving objectives.
- For example the volunteer group meets monthly and carries out works to the site as approved by the council. This includes tree management, path and fencing repairs etc. A weekly inspection is carried out and any actions recorded – these inspections are recorded on our website at www.llanffairtowncouncil.gov.uk .

Action Report

NRAP¹ Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Include actions that have been taken to:

Please see notes in previous section.

Include any measures and/indicators monitored or collected, for example:

We do run events jointly with the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust for all local people to attend. These include such evening events where there are bat walks, moths walks etc.

NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Include actions taken to:

Bird boxes have been erected for the various species identified in Deri Woods. These are monitored and adjusted as needed.

In particular a scheme of bird boxes for the Pied Fly Catcher were put up last year and are being monitored.

There is a recording of wildlife in Deri Woods by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:

See notes above.

¹ Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales

NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

Include actions taken to:

We do provide areas to support wildlife working with the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and Fiends of Deri Woods. This includes tree thinning where the fauna floor of the woods needs to be given room to breathe to support small rodents etc.

Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:

Included in the notes above.

NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Include actions to:

We do not use any pesticides or herbicides without the approval of the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

We are removing a number of fir trees which are inhibiting light to the woodland floor and are restricting growth of the Oaks.

The new drainage schemes are delivered with grant aid and meet environmental objectives and are installed to last the test of time.

For example we have installed a leaky dam in one river tributary on the site to manage the water floor when rain is heavy.

Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:

See notes above..

NRAP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring**Include actions to:**

Monitoring of information is shared between the council, Friends of Deri Woods and the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:

We are a town council and work with the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust; all information is on our website. The town council is not large enough or have the resources to enter into extensive paperwork with principal authorities. We are helpful as we can be when asked for information.

NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery**Include actions to:**

The person responsible for the council plans and delivery is the Town Clerk (Mr Robert Andrew Robinson MBE FRICS FSLCC together with Nick Burton (Friends of Deri Woods and forestry expert).

Our plans and governance are reviewed annually at the council's annual meeting in May.

Include any measures and/or indicators monitored or collected, for example:

- Volunteer days undertaken. 12 per year - Grant and investment schemes 1.
- List of funding sources directed towards biodiversity – we keep a list
- List of local/national environmental groups actively or substantially engaged and/or supported – Friends of Deri Woods and the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

- The expenditure on our woodland sites can be found on the council's website.

Review of s6 duty

- The keys issues for us are to continue the delivery of the biodiversity plan. Our main woodland is divided into 10 sections with a section being improved and managed each year. General management over all sections happens as a matter of course.

Council details

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Crown House High Street Llanfair Caereinion SY21 0QY

Tel no 07767 267830 Email townclerk@llanfairtowncouncil.gov.uk

Website www.llanfairtowncouncil.gov.uk

Precept 2025/2026 - £53,900.

Areas subject to biodiversity plan

Deri Woods

The Goat Field

Areas subject to climate change policy

Mount field Mount Road

Deri Woods High Street

The Goat field High Street

Playground

Burial grounds (one closed and one active)

Council buildings