

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

NORTH WALES COAST TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting of the group held on
Friday 10th April 2026 at 10.30am
in person and by zoom

Present were:

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair
Cllr Jeff Smith	Vice Chair – Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr Ian Hodge	Association Chair and Holywell Town Council
James Nichols	Transport for Wales
Cllr Shelly Childs	Ceredigion County Council
Angus Eikoff	SARPA
Chris Lemon	Shropshire Council
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Dylan Wilson-Lewis	Rail Future
Robert Robinson	Secretary – Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Apologies received:

Cllr Norma Davies	Association Vice Chair and Flint Town Council
Ken Law	Welshpool Facebook Users Group
Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Community Council

1. Welcome by the chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last Cambrian Line meeting.

3. Actions update from last meeting

The meeting noted taken since the last meeting (see list attached).

4. Bridge at Dovey Junction (Cambrian Coast Line)

The bridge design and issues. At high tides the level of water is very close to the track structure. The raising of the bridge is a suggested solution to the delays caused when this happens, most delays due to inspections.

To help Network rail is installing remote monitors. Any changes to the bridge are many years ahead. The subject to be added to the July agenda.

5. Shrewsbury Station

The meeting received an update on proposals for the development of Shrewsbury Station.

6. Report from Transport for Wales

The meeting received a report and update from Transport for Wales.

The main points raised and discussed were:

- i) Reliability has improved.
- ii) Harrington Humps are being adjusted between May and August.
- iii) Class 197's to be introduced over a 3-month period starting on 14th September.
- iv) The introduction of the class 187 will be on the July agenda. Currently it is proposed that for three months all trains will terminate in Shrewsbury regarding the affected lines. Platform 4 for Birmingham trains, Platform 5 for the Cambrian and Platform 3 for Holyhead. It was noted that Birmingham bound trains cannot depart platform 3 and Midland trains can only use platforms 5 and 6.
- v) 8th – 25th May Cambrian Line closures. These are to be set out in detail within the presentation slides which will be circulated to all the members. Bus layout at Welshpool will need to be improved.
- vi) The toilet provision issues with class 197 were raised. The Phwelli pumping out station is due to be installed before the end of May. The one in Shrewsbury is now fully working.
- vii) The number of class 197 trains withdrawn for various reasons has dropped.

The presentation slides will be issued to members as soon as the secretary receives them from TFW.

7. Report from Avanti Trains

There was no update from Avanti for this meeting.

8. Report from network Rail

The report from Network Rail regarding the bridge at Dovey Junction (Cambrian Coast line) is included within TFW report.

9. Rail surveys for 2026

The rail surveys early season 2026 are taking place as follows:

13th May – North Coast – Bangor to Birmingham International.

9th June – Cambrian Line – Aberystwyth – Birmingham International.

Focus on the usual records with the addition of:

Getting on and off of trains safety.

How safe people feel on the trains.

Further surveys will also be completed in the summer.

10. Buses

An integrated bus and train map is being developed for the area.

11. Date of next meeting

The meeting noted the date of the next meetings:

Friday 3rd July 2026 at 12noon in Shrewsbury – in person only

Friday 9th October 2026 at 10.30am by zoom – by Zoom and in person.

Any matters to be raised with TFW or Network rail at the July meeting should be passed to the Secretary.

Ref	Item	By whom
1	Prepare and circulate minutes	Secretary
2	Post minutes on website	Secretary
3	Prepare proposal for committee remit/membership/funding	Secretary
4	Gain update from Network Rail on the Deganwy crossing	Secretary
5	Arrange for a representative to attend the STIG meetings in Shrewsbury	Secretary with Julie Buckley MP
6	Arrange meeting between IH/TR/RR and Gail Jones of TFW to follow up any TFW matters	Secretary
7	Review with TFW markings on platform 5 at Shrewsbury	Secretary with TFW
8	Add new trains to the July join meeting agenda	Secretary
9	Meeting with Colin lee to be taken forward regarding the hourly train service paths on the Cambrian/Holyhead services.	Gail Jones TFW
10	Chase up painting and ramp situation at Welshpool Station.	Robert Gravelle
11	Replacement bus services at Welshpool to be discussed further offline.	Secretary with TFW
12	Update on bi-lingual announcements on the Cambrian Line to be clarified.	Gail Jones
13	Investigate if smart signage can be installed at other stations on the Cambrian line – like that at Porthmadog.	Gail Jones
14	Level platform boarding to be monitored.	Secretary with TFW
15	Integrated map of rail/bus services to be discussed further.	Secretary with TFW
16	Bob Saxby and Ross Rondel to make contact over buses.	Bob Saxby and Ross Ronel
17	Monitor bilingual announcements on the Cambrian Line when class 197 trains are in service.	All
18	Arrange for 3 rd July meeting of the joint groups to meet in person at Shrewsbury.	Secretary with Gail Jones