

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES

of a meeting of the North Coast & Cambrian Transport
Committees held on

Friday 3rd July 2026 at 12noon in The Gateway Shrewsbury

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies Vice Chair	Flint Town Council
Jerry Howels	TFW
Gail Jones	TFW
Paul Mainwaring	TFW
James Nichols	TFW
Jordan Reed	TFW
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Bill Cooper	Hawarden Community Council
Cllr Pat Corbett	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Town Council
Angus Eickhoff	SARPA
Cllr Chris Lemon	Shropshire Council
Cllr Debbie Owen	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Trevor Roberts	Cambrian Line
Bob Saxby	Rail Future
Cllr Jeff Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Antony Wren	Connah's Quay Town Council
Robert Robinson MBE	Secretary

Apologies received

Cllr Shelley Childs	Ceredigion Council
Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Carol Holliday	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr James Kenney	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Alan Manship	Connah's Quay Town Council
Vicky Roberts	Rhyl Town Council

1. Welcome from the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Minutes from the January 2026 meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2026.

3. Actions from January 2026 meeting

The council reviewed the actions taken since the last meeting.

Those still outstanding are:

Ref	Item	Responsibility
1	Gain update on Deganwy Crossing	Secretary/Network rail
2	Platform 5 markings Shrewsbury supported by information	Gail Jones/James Nichols
3	Meeting with Colin Lee to be arranged asap	Gail Jones/James Nichols
4	Painting of railings on footbridge in red at Welshpool station	Gail Jones/James Nichols
5	Improve replacement bus service provision	Gail Jones/James Nichols
6	Provision of smart information or help points	See minutes

4. Rail survey presentation

The meeting received a presentation on the latest rail surveys held in May and June 2026. A copy of the report is included with these minutes entitled report 10A.

5. Transport for Wales

Transport for Wales officers were present to discuss subjects and answer any questions relating to either the Cambrian or North Coast rail lines. The subjects included:

Performance report

A report on recent performance was given. The month of May was subject to more cancellations and delays than usual. This was reflected in the rail survey report.

Train fleet post 2035

Discussions over the future fleet for TFW is currently being considered. The Association is encouraged to submit their views as soon as possible so that they can be included in the review. A special meeting to discuss this may be required.

Replacement bus services

A further discussion to take place with Gail Jones and James Nichols over rail replacement buses and their management.

Help points

Many stations on the network will have help points installed over the coming months. Welshpool and Newtown are not on the early installation list due to good Wi-Fi connections at these stations.

Safety on trains

The survey report no 10A included safety. The following was of note:

- a) Generally, passengers felt safe on the trains.
- b) Several stations were pinpointed as those with some evening concern for safety when not busy and unstaffed. These included Shotton and Shrewsbury.

Recommendations from report no 10A

The report of the May/June surveys to be issued.

Recommendations in the report to be considered by TFW and should be highlighted to Welsh Government.

Overcrowding

The overcrowding issues continue, particularly when there are only 2 car units. See report no 10A. No services between Shrewsbury and Chester should be 2 car units.

Incident management

There were several incidents/unusual events on the trains during the survey. Most were managed very well with just a few not so well.

The main issues were:

- Confusing information (electronic information different to what happened)
- Lack of staff in some incidents (all went well when staff around)
- Changes from one train to another where the train moved to is smaller.

Heat related incidents and services

It was noted that some train services continued during the hot weather whilst TFW did not. The situation was explained as to how this comes about.

Flint Station

Issues around anti-social behaviour and the CCTV blind spots was highlighted.

Bangor train services

The new train timetables for the north coast have left Bangor with some long gaps between trains since Llandudno Junction has become the main terminus for trains heading west.

Co-ordination between Avanti/TFW

More co-ordination of train services between Avanti and TFW would help with gaps in services on the north coast.

Samaritans' posters

The question was asked about posters on stations for the 'Samaritans'. It was confirmed that there were posters up in some locations. James Nichols will investigate it and report to Cllr Norma Davies.

Lack of rolling stock and funding

The lack of rolling stock is still causing issues with overcrowded trains. The Association is to seek a meeting with Welsh Government regarding funding.

Reports of journey experiences

There were several journey experiences relayed to the meeting, some good and some not so good. See notes of 'the days experience' in report no 10A.

6. Network Rail

There was no representative from Network Rail present.

7. STIG

The meetings regarding Shrewsbury Station continue. Designs for the new footbridge arrangement have been released for comment. The rail report no 10A will be presented at the next meeting.

8. Motion by Flintshire Council

It was agreed to include the motion as per attached to these minutes at appendix A.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the future meetings are set out below:

Cambrian Lines	2 nd October – 1115 in Aberystwyth and on Zoom
North Wales Coast	9 th October – on Zoom

The next joint meeting is to be held in January 2027.

10. Actions to be taken forward

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

Ref	Item	Responsibility
1	Gain update on Deganwy Crossing	Secretary/Network rail
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5	Improve replacement bus service provision	Gail Jones/James Nichols
6	Provision of smart information and help points	TFW
7	Further discussions to take place about replacement bus service management.	Gail Jones/James Nichols
8	To consider any safety improvements for the evenings at Shrewsbury and Shotton stations.	TFW
9	Prepare Association views on what trains are sought for the period post 2035	Cambrian Line and North Coast Line special meeting
10	Arrange to meet with minister's department in Cardiff	Secretary
11	A safety review of platforms relationship to train door entry levels.	TFW
12	Include Flintshire motion in information pack for the Minister (with report no 10A)	Secretary
13	Check CCTV at Flint	James Nichols
14	Check Samaritans posters	James Nichols
15	Issue report 10A to all as follows: a) Minister of transport b) TFW c) Network Rail d) Association members e) Cambrian Line members f) North Coast Rail members g) Local press h) MPS and Senedd members	Secretary
16	Arrange for August rail surveys to be included as report no 10B	Secretary/Gail Jones
17	Seek meeting with WG over funding for rolling stock.	Secretary
18	Follow up action list.	Secretary/TFW
19	Publish report and minutes on Association website.	Secretary

APPENDIX A

Flintshire County Council notes:

- that Transport for Wales has installed 'Tap and Go' terminals at stations in North Wales, enabling users to pay for travel using a contactless card prior to boarding;
- that these terminals are unable to offer the best value fares to a significant number of users;
- that these terminals are only usable by people with a contactless card;
- that while Flintshire's stations on the North Wales Main Line have conventional ticket machines, stations on the Borderlands line do not and passengers may purchase a ticket from the guard on the train;
- that passengers are generally expected to purchase a ticket before they board if the option to do so is available at the station;
- that no signs are displayed informing passengers that the 'Tap and Go' terminals do not offer the cheapest fares and that passengers may still purchase tickets on board, and
- that signage at some stations wrongly suggests that using the 'Tap and Go' machines will result in the lowest available fare being charged.

Flintshire County Council believes:

- that some passengers without contactless means of payment will not understand that they can still buy a ticket on board, given the lack of signage to this effect;
- that passengers eligible for cheaper fares, including children, young people, older people, disabled people and veterans, are not adequately informed that they will be charged a full price fare and could save money by buying a ticket on the train;
- that users who erroneously pay higher fares as a result of the presentation of the 'Tap and Go' machines without this context are less likely to use the railway in future, and
- that proper signage is necessary to protect passengers from overpaying at stations with no other means of buying a ticket.

Flintshire County Council resolves:

- to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Transport for Wales setting out this council's concern about the lack of proper signage surrounding the installation of 'Tap and Go' machines, and calling for the installation of signs adjacent to the machines clearly stating

that children and passengers with a railcard will not be charged the lowest fares by the machines, and that passengers may still pay on the train for tickets;

- to put out a press release warning the public of the risk of being overcharged by the 'Tap and Go' machines;
- to publish the reply from Transport for Wales, and
- to explore other options of informing the public of the risk of overcharging should Transport for Wales not take appropriate steps to do so themselves.

Proposer: Cllr Alasdair Ibbotson (FPV, Penyffordd)