



MINUTES

of the quarterly meeting of the Association held on
Friday 17th July 2026 at 11am in the
Civic Halls Connah's Quay and by
zoom

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies Vice Chair	Flint Town Council
Cllr Una Abott	Penmaenmawr Town Council
Janet Atherton	Hawarden Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Steven Consterdine Clerk	Penmaenmawr Town Council
Cllr Pat Corbett	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Bill Cooper	Hawarden Community Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Ash Dunbobbin	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Lynnette Edwards	Caerwys Town Council
Cllr Ross Griffiths	Broughton & Bretton Town Council
Cllr Patrick Heesom	Mostyn Community Council
Cllr Shirley Jones Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Doreen Mackie	Shotton Town Council
Cllr Alan Manship	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Towyn & Kinmell Bay Town Council
Cllr Debbie Owen	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Susan Wilson Clerk	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Antony Wren	Connah's Quay Town Council
Robert Robinson MBE Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Apologies

received

Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Carol Holliday	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town Council

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.



2. Guest speakers and future meetings

For the next meeting in October there are to be two subjects with speakers/visitors as follows:

The Barnett Formula

MP and SM visit to meet us regarding rail and association matters

To gain a person from Network rail to attend a meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

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

4. Actions taken since the last meeting

To meeting noted the actions taken since the last meeting:

Ref	Subject	Actions
1	Governance	Issue minutes and post on website
2	Elections	Circulate Senedd election details
3	Consultation	Letter in response to carers consultation.
4	Highways	Meeting and letter to the Senedd regarding highways.
5	Funding	Letter to Chief Executives and Political parties regarding issues of concern and in particular funding.
6	Funding	to invite Cllr Charlie McCoubrey to address the Association on the subject of funding formula.

5. Railway matters

The meeting considered rail matters following the meeting held on 3rd July 2026 meeting in Shrewsbury. The next meeting of this group will be January 2027.

The meeting considered what trains they would like to see when a review takes place on provision from 2035. The following are put forward for consideration:

- i) The rolling stock required should be enough to provide at least 4 car units on all services. The services to Cardiff from Chester should be 5 car units.
The reason for this is that the rail surveys carried out by the Association show dangerous levels of overcrowding on many trains. All trains should not be overloaded to an extent where the guard cannot get down the train, people cannot get to toilets and where people cannot get off the train with their luggage.



- ii) The windows need to be larger so that a good number of seats can see out when travelling. This is particularly important on tourist routes such as the North Wales Coast, the Cambrian lines and the Heart of Wales line.
- iii) Rolling stock should have steps which come out from the carriage so help with the gap between the train and the platform edges. A lot of trains in the UK have this.
- iv) The trains should be able to couple up to other stock to allow more flexibility.
- v) The number of seats on each train should be at least to the level of the 158 class.
- vi) There needs to be good toilet provision, at least two per train.
- vii) The overhead luggage racks need to be of a design where a reasonable sized bag/case can be stowed safely.
- viii) Consideration to a carriage on longer trains that can take cycles, wheelchairs and pushchairs in numbers.
- ix) Suitable trains for longer journeys, the current new 197s are considered to be a good commuter train but not so good for longer journeys.

6. Date of next meeting

Friday 23rd October 2026 at Abergele.

**7. Actions to be taken forward:**

The following actions to be taken forward from the meeting:

No	Activity	By
1	Circulate minutes and post on website	Secretary
2	Arrange speakers for next meeting	Secretary
3	Arrange meeting with highways on A55	Secretary
4	Circulate suggested spec for new trains in 2025	Secretary
5	Circulate link for Barnett formula video	Secretary
6	Chase up responses from CEO's and party leaders in Wales to pre-election letter	Secretary
7	Arrange for next meeting to be in Abergele	Secretary
8	Press release/letter to councils in North Wales from Ian Hodge	Secretary, Cllr Ian Hodge and all members
9	Arrange for summer rail surveys	Cllrs Ian Hodge, Norma Davies, Trevor Roberts and Robert Robinson