

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES

of a meeting of the North Coast Committee held on
Friday 9th October 2026 at 10.30am via Zoom

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge Chair	Holywell Town Council
James Nichols	Transport for Wales
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Patricia Corbett	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Carol Holliday	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Patrick Heesom	Mostyn Community Council
Cllr Doreen Mackie	Shotton Town Council
Cllr Alan Manship	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Lorainne Rathbone	Buckey Town Council
Cllr Jackie Webster	Conwy Town Council
Cllr A Wren	Abergele Town Council
Representative from Janet Finch-Saunders SM	
Robert Robinson Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Apologies received from

Cllr Norma Davies	Flint Town Council
Cllr Trevor Roberts	Cambrian Line Chair
Nick Smith	Avanti Trains

1. Welcome from the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Minutes from the 3rd July 2026 joint meeting To

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd July 2026.

3. Actions from July 2026 meeting

The meeting noted the actions taken since the last meeting. See below:

Ref	Item	Responsibility
1	Gain update on Deganwy Crossing	It appears things maybe resolved with the 25m works programme
2	Platform 5 markings Shrewsbury supported by information	Still awaiting a result

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3	Meeting with Colin Lee to be arranged asap	Colin Lee and Network Rail to be asked to attend January meeting in Shrewsbury
4	Painting of railings on footbridge in red at Welshpool station	Still awaited
5	Improve replacement bus service provision	Ongoing
6	Provision of smart information and help points	Being rolled out
7	Further discussions to take place about replacement bus service management.	Ongoing
8	To consider any safety improvements for the evenings at Shrewsbury and Shotton stations.	Ongoing
9	Prepare Association views on what trains are sought for the period post 2035	Specification to be finalised at this meeting
10	Arrange to meet with minister's department in Cardiff	Arranged for 11.11.2026
11	A safety review of platforms relationship to train door entry levels.	Ongoing
12	Include Flintshire motion in information pack for the Minister (with report no 10A)	Completed
13	Check CCTV at Flint	It is understood that this is now in place
14	Check Samaritans posters	Being monitored
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	Completed
16	Arrange for August rail surveys to be included as report no 10B	Completed
17	Seek meeting with WG over funding for rolling stock.	Arranged for 11.11.2026
18	Follow up action list.	To be taken forward
19	Bow Street car park – use by non-rail users to be considered.	TFW to monitor

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20	Publish report and minutes on Association website.	Completed
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4. Rail survey presentation

The meeting received a presentation on the latest rail surveys held in July and August 2026.

The meeting also received a report on a meeting with TFW communications director.

5. Transport for Wales

A presentation on performance was given by James Nichols. The last few months, yet again, was challenging. It is hoped this will improve in the coming months.

The issues with the Cambrian Line continues and needs to improve. The new 197 class trains were due to start introduction on the Cambrian – Birmingham – Llandudno Junction line on 14th September. No news had been received on the delay. It is now hoped they might start on 19th October. James Nicols is to let the Secretary have an update.

It was noted that between 30% and 40% of all trains in the past few months were late or cancelled.

It was noted that 55 of the 77 new 197 units have now undergone repairs.

The North Coast line is being closed for a month in January to enable 25m of improvement works to be completed by Network Rail. (6th January to 9th February). Bus replacement will be put in place. TFW is to issue details to the secretary for distribution.

The Association view of what is needed in new trains from 2035 is attached and was agreed at this meeting following both the Association and Cambrian Lines meetings.

6. Avanti

There was no report from Avanti. There was no questions for onward transmission to Avanti.

7. Network Rail

There was no report from Network Rail.

8. STIG

The secretary gave an update on Shrewsbury station and its development proposals.

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9. Any other business

To consider any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the meeting starting.

10 Highways information

The secretary had met with the Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency who confirmed that all speed limits in Wales were being looked in Wales starting in 2027.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting its to be Friday 8th January 2027 at 12noon in Gateway House Shrewsbury – in person only – TFW issuing rail tickets.

12. Actions to be taken forward

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

Ref	Activity	Action by
1	Prepare, circulate and post minutes	Robert Robinson
2	Issue new train specification notes	Robert Robinson
3	Report back on meeting with Minister in Cardiff on 11 th November 2026	Robert Robinson
4	Liaise with TFW regarding January 2027 meeting in Shrewsbury	Robert Robinson
5	Issue slides from TFW presentation	James Nichols
6	Update to secretary on introduction of 197 class trains on Cambrian – Birmingham – Llandudno Junction	James Nichols
7	Bus timetables for replacement transport along North Coast to be issued asap	James Nichols
8	Report back on progress with Deganwy Crossing.	James Nichols via Network Rail

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AGREED SPECIFICATION FOR FUTURE TRAINS

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.

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.

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.

The trains should be able to couple up to other stock to allow more flexibility.

The number of seats on each train should be at least to the level of the 158 class.

There needs to be good toilet provision, at least two per train.

The overhead luggage racks need to be of a design where a reasonable sized bag/case can be stowed safely.

Consideration to a carriage on longer trains that can take cycles, wheelchairs and pushchairs in numbers. Suitable trains for longer journeys, the current new 197s are considered to be a good commuter train but not so good for longer journeys.