

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

of a meeting held on **Friday 2nd October 2026** at 11.15am in the offices of
Aberystwyth Town Council and via Zoom

Present were

Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair	Rail 200
Cllr Jeff Smith (part) Vice Chair	Aberystwyth Council
Angus Eikhoff	SARPA
Cllr Shelly Childs	Aberystwyth & Ceredigion Councils
Cllr Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Council
Cllr Alum Williams	Aberystwyth & Ceredigion Councils
Robert Robinson MBE Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Council

Apologies for absence

James Nichols	TFW
Ken Law	Welshpool Facebook Group
Dyland Wilson-Lewis	Rail Future

1. Welcome from the chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting confirmed the minutes of the last meeting as a correct record.

3. Actions from the last meeting

The meeting considered the actions from the last meeting with an update as follows:

1	Circulate minutes for comment	Completed
2	Platform 5 markings Shrewsbury	Awaiting information on when it will be done
3	Meeting with Colin Lee to be arranged asap	Yet to be arranged
4	Painting of railings on footbridge in red at Welshpool station	Awaited
5	Improve replacement bus service	Discussions continuing
6	Provision of smart information and help points	Being rolled out
7	To consider any safety improvements for the evenings at Shrewsbury and Shotton stations	Ongoing – good report at Shrewsbury recently
8	Prepare Association views on what trains are sought for the period post 2035	In final stages
9	Arrange to meet with minister's department in Cardiff	Arranged for 11 th November
10	Issue report 10A to all	Issued
11	Parking issues at Bow Street	Local members on the case
12	Publish report and minutes on Association website. Secretary	Completed

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4. Surveys report

An update was given regarding the 2026 surveys carried out in July and August 2026.

The very poor management of a difficult day in August was reported back to James at TFW and within a few days we met the Communications Director for TFW. A worthwhile meeting with positive results.

The surveys are posed on the website.

5. TFW

The orange wallet scheme which has lied dormant for a while has been revitalised with the wallets issued to many locations around the network.

The issues around train cancellations and reliability to be raised with the Minister and again with TFW.

The introduction of the new trains is still awaited.

6. North Coast rail closures during January 2026

The rail closures were noted for January 2026. With the 20mph limit now extending from Shotton Bangor along extensive stretches buses will an issue.

7. Caersws Station car parking

Cllr Andrew Wallbank updated the meeting on the car parking issues at Caersws Station. Powys County Council appear unwilling to release a field to help due to the loss of agricultural rent. The Town Council has now approached PCC to purchase or rent the land. The meeting offered any support required. Cllr Wallbank will advise.

8. Meeting with Minister

The Association is meeting with the transport minister on 11th November in Cardiff. Many of the issues raised as evidenced by the survey work will be on the agenda as well as the lack of rolling stock and future rolling stock.

9. Future trains

The meeting agreed the specification to be suggested for new trains in 2035 as follows:

- 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.

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- 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. There also needs to be a good provision of ground fixed luggage racks.
- 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.

10. Flexi-tickets and through ticketing

The subject of ticketing was raised. It would be good if both of these could be introduced across Wales. This is starting to be rolled out in North Wales.

11. STIG and Shrewsbury Station

An update was given on the progress with improvements at Shrewsbury Station.

12. Dates of future meetings

Transport meetings (Cambrian – 11.30am):

8th January 2027 in person in Shrewsbury
2nd April 2027 in Aberystwyth and by zoom
2nd July 2027 Joint in Shrewsbury in person only

Transport meetings (North Coast- 10.30am):

9th October 2026 by zoom
8th January 2027 in person in Shrewsbury
9th April 2027 by zoom
2nd July 2027 Joint in Shrewsbury in person only

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13. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

Ref	Actions	Who
1	Circulate minutes for comment	Secretary
2	Platform 5 markings Shrewsbury	TFW
3	Meeting with Colin Lee to be arranged asap	TFW
4	Painting of railings on footbridge in red at Welshpool station	TFW
5	Improve replacement bus service	Discussions to continue
6	Report back on meeting with Minister	Secretary
7	Issue Association views on what trains are sought for the period post 2035	Ongoing – good report at Shrewsbury recently
8	Arrange January TFW meeting in Shrewsbury	Secretary
9	Arrange to meet with minister's department in Cardiff	Secretary
10	Support Caersws as required with regard to Station car parking	Secretary
11	Publish report and minutes on Association website. Secretary	Secretary