



MINUTES

of a meeting of the **Executive** held on
Friday 25th September 2020 at 10.30am by ZOOM

Executive	Cllr J Butterfield MBE (President), Cllr P Morton (Chair), Cllr B Roberts, Cllr B Bertola, Cllr D Hainge, Cllr B McLoughlin and Cllr L Edwards. Robert Robinson (Secretariat)
Responsibilities	To prepare the agenda for the main meetings, to consider governance in more detail, to make decision on matters which need to be completed before a full Association meeting.

1. Record of attendance

Present were:

Cllr Peter Morton Chair
Cllr Joan Butterfield President
Cllr Brian Roberts
Cllr Derek Hainge
Robert Robinson Secretary

Apologies received:

Cllr B Bertola
Cllr B McLoughlin
Cllr L Edwards

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

The minutes of the last Executive Meeting were approved.

3. Actions from last meeting

The Committee noted the actions taken since the last meeting:

No	Item	Status
1	Inform membership of AGM changes.	Completed
2	Post on web site new membership application form.	Completed
3	Post annual accounts on the web site.	Completed
4	Progress Rail Liaison Committee as per proposal at appendix A of agenda.	Started
5	Post future plan 2020-2025 on web site for consultation with membership.	Completed
6	Continue with monthly updates on web site for members.	Completed
7	Archives to National Library of Wales	On hold due to Covid 19 restrictions
8	Seek a North and Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government. A meeting being held with a senior Welsh Government Officer.	Meeting with senior civil servant to be arranged when coronavirus is over.
9	Research and identify places available on existing North Coast Rail Line Committees.	Started
10	Letter sent to County Councils seeking a nomination from the Association on Public Service Boards	Completed – see note further down in minutes.



4. Financial Report

The meeting considered a financial report from the Secretary as follows:

4.1 The meeting noted the account balance of £6,344.69p as at the date of the meeting.

4.2 The meeting also noted that annual membership fees have been invoiced and are coming in.

4.3 The meeting noted that there were just two signatories to the account being Robert Robinson and Cllr Brian Bertola. The meeting agreed to add Cllr J Butterfield and Cllr D Hainge to the account.

4.4 The meeting considered internet banking but decided not to progress with this as there is very little activity on the account and that there are no bank charges on the existing account. The current process of cheques is to continue.

5. Next quarterly meeting

The meeting considered the next quarterly meeting when Covid 19 restrictions allow:

5.1 The meeting agreed that the October quarterly meeting be cancelled and that a full meeting is held in January 2021 either face to face (if restrictions allow) or via Zoom.

5.2 The Notice of election of a Vice Chair with nominations received in advance as per the constitution can take place when a full quarterly meeting is held.

6. North Coast Railways

6.1 The Secretary reported (with the Chair) on the meeting with Welsh Government regarding train capacity, toilet provision, timetables and electrification. A copy of the minutes of that meeting is to be posted in the documents section of the Association web site and emailed to members.

It was felt that the meeting was very constructive and worthwhile.

6.2 The meeting considered what other organised committee's there were with regards to consultation on railways along the North Coast. There was not provision for any group representing the Town and Community Councils in a form which would work for the Association.

It was therefore agreed to progress with a Liaison Group as set out in 6.3 below.



6.3 The meeting considered progress towards a forum for transport for the North Coast.

The following points are of particular note:

- a) The main Association Meeting approved the setting up of a rail committee with some financial backing from the Association.
- b) The Executive was to administer the detail following the decision.
- c) The Executive is concerned about the potential number of persons who might attend such a group, the effect of a larger group operating independently from the Association and the effect it might have on the reputation of the Association.
- d) It was agreed that any new group should be part of the Association and not independent from it.
- e) The principles of a Transport Committee were agreed but the Governance was still to be agreed.
- f) Cllr J Butterfield had produced some suggested governance which is to be taken on board when setting the management structure of any new committee.
- g) Future important discussion points on railways include the effects of Covid 19.
- h) It is envisaged that any new committee would be pro-active and led by the Association.

It was agreed that the secretary would issue the necessary paperwork for the Executive to consider with such proposals taking into account the concerns over governance. This paper can then be considered again at the next meeting so it is ready for a full Association meeting approval in the new year.

Executive Members were asked to put any ideas for consideration forward for the next Executive Meeting.

6.5 Consideration should be given to what closed railway lines might be put forward for re-opening. There may be some lines that if re-opened would have economic benefits for North Wales. (i.e. Bangor to Caernarfon). See appendix A to these minutes.

7. Consultations

The meeting noted the various consultations that had been completed over the past few months with members asked for comments on the proposed responses before they were issued.

- i) To note the response sent to Welsh Government consultation on the Transport Scoping Policy for Wales.
- ii) To note the response sent to Welsh Government consultation on Plastics and their uses.
- iii) To consider the Welsh Government consultation regarding affordable housing design and the final draft response from the Association.



- iv) To note the response sent to Welsh Government consultation on Listed Building Consent proposals.
- v) To note the response sent to Welsh Government consultation on Business Rates relief for hospitals and schools.
- vi) To note the response sent to Welsh Government consultation on Car Parking at stations in Wales.
- vii) To note the response sent to Welsh Government consultation on the Clean Air Act for Wales.

8. Future Plan 2020-2025 for the Association

The draft plan has been published on the web site and members informed by email.

The Executive at its last meeting approved the document, it now needs to progress to approval from the main Association membership when a full quarterly meeting can be held.

9. Dates for 2020-2021 Meetings

The meeting considered the suggested dates for the 2020-2021 meetings of the Association and confirmed the following:

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 23rd October 2020 (to be cancelled due to Covid 19)

Friday 22nd January 2021

Friday 23rd April 2021

Friday 26th July 2021 at Connah's Quay

Meetings start at 10.30am

Executive Meetings

Friday 23rd October 2020 To be held by Zoom.

Friday 11th December 2020

Friday 12th March 2021

Friday 11th June 2021

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices at 10.30am

10. Speakers progress

The meeting recorded that the following are the next three speakers for future meetings to be arranged after Covid 19 restrictions are relaxed.

North Wales NHS

Salvation Army

Fields in Trust

11. Gavel for Cllr B Roberts

The engraved gavel for Cllr B Roberts for his period as Chair of the Association 2017-2019 has been received and is ready for presentation.



12. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions to be taken forward from the meeting:

No	Activity	Action by
1	Minutes to be issued for approval and posted on the web site as well as emailed to member Councils	Robert Robinson
2	Circulate the paperwork on a new Transport Liaison Group to the Executive for consideration at the next meeting on 23 rd October 2020	Robert Robinson
	A paper on ideas for the new Transport Liaison Committee	All members
3	Forms for signatories at Lloyds Bank to be sent to Cllr J Butterfield and Cllr D Hainge for completion.	Robert Robinson Cllr J Butterfield Cllr D Hainge
4	Members to be informed of the cancellation of the October meeting and the plans for a January meeting.	Robert Robinson
5	A chart of North Wales closed railways to be prepared for consideration at the next Executive Meeting.	Robert Robinson

APPENDIX A

North Wales Railways – then and now

No	Railway	Status
1	Chester to Holyhead	Still running (some stations closed i.e. Holywell)
2	Llandudno to Bleanau Ffestiniog	Still running
3	Bangor to Pwllheli	Closed 1963
4	Beaumaris to Amlwch (Anglesey)	Closed pre 1963
5	Whitchurch to Dolgellau (branch to Bala)	Closed pre 1963
6	Hope to Ruthin via Mold	Closed pre 1963