



## AGENDA

for a meeting of the **Association** to be held on  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 at 10.30am**

### 1. ZOOM

The meeting will be held by Zoom

### 2. Welcome by the Chair of the Association

To receive a welcome to the meeting by Cllr Peter Morton Chair.

### 3. Record of attendance

To record a record of attendance.

### 4. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting – January 2021

To approve the minutes of the last meeting. See appendix A.

### 5. Actions from and since last meeting

To consider the actions taken since the last full Association meeting:

No	Action	Status
1	Circulate minutes and publish on web site	Completed
2	Letter to Health Minister on Covid 19 over 80's information.	Completed
3	Letter to Health Minister on volunteering issues with help on Covid 19 vaccinations.	Completed
4	Publish with Flooding added to action plan the 2020-2025 approved plans.	Completed
5	Send out booklets to all members.	Completed
6	Set up first Transport Committee Meeting.	Completed
7	Alter web site to include Transport Meetings.	Completed
8	Letter to all Members seeking a representative on the Transport Committee recommending (if possible) a member with some rail experience.	Completed and response received.
9	Letter to Minister at Welsh Government on Business Rates.	Completed
10	Include Council Tax review on the next meeting agenda.	Completed
11	Write and find out how Town and Community Councils will be represented and if the Association could have a member as part the new Corporate Joint Committees.	Completed



**6. Financial Report**

To consider a financial report and to note the current bank balance.

**7. Executive Meeting**

To note the minutes of the March 2021 Executive Meeting.

**8. Annual Meeting**

To consider a recommendation from the Executive with regards hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Association.

Each council will have one vote which can be cast via the secretary before the meeting or at the meeting.

The options are

- a) To host the Annual Meeting by Zoom.
- b) To host the Annual Meeting in person for 1 person per council and alongside to have the big screen with zoom for others to attend.

A voting form will be issued with this agenda. It is one vote per council.

**9. North Coast Transport Committee**

To consider any matters raised by this Committee.

- i) Station Audit
- ii) Trains and their formations
- iii) Signalling in trains
- iv) Bangor-Llandudno Junction – Manchester Airport

**10. Business Rates**

To receive an update on the Welsh Government response to the Associations letter to the Minister.

To note a bill in Parliament which has passed first reading to abolish business rates and increase VAT by 2%.

**11. Council Tax**

To receive an update on the Welsh Government response to the Associations letter to the Minister.

**12. Health Matters**

To consider and update on any information relating to hospital care in Mid and North Wales.



**13. Homeless in North Wales**

To consider if there is any actions needed by the Association on this subject.

**14. Representation in North Wales**

To consider:

- i) An update on a Minister for North Wales.
- ii) An update on Corporate Joint Committees.

**15. Holyhead Port**

To receive an update on how the Port is doing and to consider if there is anything the Association should be done.

**16. Any other business**

Any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the Meeting.

**17. Dates for future meetings**

To note the dates for the next meeting of the Association.

**Quarterly Meetings**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 – either as normal or by Zoom.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Annual Meeting

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 Annual Meeting

Meetings start at 10.30am

**Executive Meetings**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – to be held by Zoom.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices at 10.30am (when restrictions allow) or by Zoom.



APPENDIX A

**MINUTES**

of a meeting of the **Association** held on  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at 10.30am**  
by ZOOM

**1. Welcome by the Chair of the Association**

The meeting received a welcome to the meeting by Cllr Peter Morton Chair.

**2. Chairs announcements**

The Chair completed a short eulogy to Cllr Bob Barton.

The Chair completed a virtual presentation of an engraved gavel to Cllr Brian Roberts in recognition of his service as Chair of the Association from 2017 to 2019.

The Chair announced that Robert Robinson Secretary had been included in the New Year's Honours list for 2021 with an MBE.

**3. Present were**

The following were present at the meeting:

Cllr Peter Morton Chair	St Asaph City Council
Cllr Joan Butterfield MBE	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Glenys Baker	
Cllr S Beach	Ruthin Town Council
Cllr Antony Bertola	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Brian Bertola	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Menai Bridge Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caersys Community Council
Jill Ellison	St Asaph City Council
Cllr E Faulkner	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr G Faulkner	Connah's Quay Town Council
Steve Goodrum	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Ryan McKeown	
Cllr Bernice McLoughlin	Towyn and Kinmell Bay Town Council
Gareth Nickels	Rhyl Town Council



Continued....

Cllr Brian Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Peter York	Holywell Town Council
Robert Robinson MBE Secretary	

There were limited numbers due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

#### 4. Apologies were received from

The following apologies were received:

Cllr Tickle from Denbigh Town Council  
Natasha Flint from Conwy Town Council

#### 5. Minutes of the last Full Association Meeting – January 2020

The meeting approved the minutes of the last full Association meeting as posted on the web.

#### 6. Actions from and since last meeting

The meeting noted the actions taken since the last full Association meeting:

Heading	Status
Minutes and information to be posted on web site	Completed
Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	On-going – Covid 19 delay
Seek a North & Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government	A zoom meeting with Welsh Government is being arranged.
Business Rates and Council Tax to be a standard agenda item for the foreseeable future.	Included on this agenda
North Wales Cost Rail Liaison Committee	Proposal ready for final approval
Speakers to be arranged from the Salvation Army, Hospital Trust and BID scheme.	Speakers being arranged when meetings happen face to face.
Arrange third party liability insurance for the meetings – approx. cost £80pa.	Completed
Clean Air Act – letter to be sent expressing concern over the effect on rural areas.	Completed.



The meeting noted the actions taken by the Executive since January 2020:

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Status</b>
Complete updates for web site in place of April meeting.	Completed
Keep monthly updates on the web site for members	Completed
Motion regarding homeless veterans to be posted on web site with vote.	Completed
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.	A meeting is to be arranged to meet senior officers of the Welsh Government as soon as Covid 19 allows.
Prepare a paper for the next meeting on Council Tax and Business Rates and the alternatives and publish on web site for comment.	Completed
Publish on web site a membership application form.	Completed
Inform membership of AGM changes.	Completed
Post annual accounts on the web site.	Completed
Post future plan 2020-2025 on web site for consultation with membership.	Completed
Consultations to be considered, posted on web site for comments and submitted to Welsh Government within set timescales (various received)	Completed
Minutes of Executive Meetings to be posted on web site	Completed
Forms for signatories at Lloyds Bank to be sent to Cllr J Butterfield and Cllr D Hainge for completion.	Completed
Members to be informed of the meeting arrangements during the Covid 19 restrictions.	Completed
A chart of North Wales closed railways to be prepared for consideration at the next Executive Meeting.	Completed

## **7. Financial Report**

To consider a financial report.

- a) The meeting noted the current bank balance which is £6,491.74p.
- b) The meeting noted that the Annual accounts are posted on web site.
- c) The meeting noted that Cllr J Butterfield and Cllr D Hainge have been added as bank signatories along with the two existing ones of Cllr B Bertola and Robert Robinson.





**8. Future Plan – debate and approval**

The meeting considered and approved the Future Plan for the period 2020-2025. Subject to including another objective of supporting flood defences and development in flood plains the plan was **approved**.

The action plan from the plan is set out in the appendix to these minutes.

**9. To consider the details of the North Coast Rail Committee proposal**

The meeting considered the detailed proposals to take forward a Transport Sub-Committee following a decision to proceed in January 2020.

The Association **approved** the arrangements which will come into effect in February 2021.

The following were elected as the officers for the Committee until the AGM in July 2021.

Chair	Cllr Peter Morton
Secretary	Robert Robinson

The main issues on the agenda for the meeting will include formation of trains, station audits, access friendly stations and movement towards a Dementia Friendly main railway line.

**10. Transport Strategy for Wales.**

The secretary outlined the main points of note for the North Coast Railway Line as follows:

- a) Stations – opening of Wrexham (2), Deeside and Holywell Stations.
- b) Trains – new trains for December 2022.
- c) Timetables – improved service levels including a Llandudno to Liverpool service.
- d) Electrification and hydrogen rolling stock – long term electrification of the North Coast lines. Some trains which are shared with the Cambrian Lines maybe driven by hydrogen.

Matters will proceed via a Project Plan. As soon as that is out for consultation the members will be informed.



### **11. To receive a Health report for both North and Mid Wales**

The meeting discussed the Covid 19 situation in North Wales and how things were progressing with the Local Hospitals.

#### **Mid Wales**

A short report was given with the same story as many other areas with hospitals (Shrewsbury) very busy with Covid 19 patients.

#### **North Wales**

The hospitals are very busy with Covid 19 patients and all agreed that the front line staff of the NHS were all doing a great job.

There was concern expressed about the roll out of vaccines for those over 80. Not all were getting notified and any sweep up advertising appeared to be done by social media (not something which most over 80's do). The secretary is to take this point up with the Minister.

The point about volunteers was raised with many trying to volunteer to help with the Covid 19 vaccinations but finding either no one returned their calls or inquiry along with too much red tape meaning they gave up trying.

The secretary is to take this point up with the Minister.

There was some concern about the size of the Health Board in North Wales noted that service delivery was better when it was smaller.

This subject is to be raised at a future meeting when a representative can meet the Association in person.

### **12. Business Rates**

The meeting considered and **approved** the enclosed document including the actions suggested therein. The proposal to suggest a Turnover Tax as its replacement met with support as it included sales online.

The secretary is to take forward the proposals in the paper with the Welsh Government and report back to the next meeting.

### **13. Council Tax**

The meeting considered an update from the secretary regarding any possible changes to the Council Tax system. A report will be available for the next meeting.





#### **14. Consultations**

The meeting noted the Association has taken part in Welsh Government Consultations as follows:

- i) Housing design.
- ii) Banning of non-recyclable plastics.
- iii) Welsh Government taxation provisions.
- iv) Commercial rates with regard to hospitals, care homes and schools.
- v) Railway station car parking.
- vi) Listed building consents.
- vii) Clean Air Act and provisions affecting residents.
- viii) Scoping plan for transport in Wales.
- ix) Empty Rates provisions on non-domestic property.
- x) All Wales Strategic Planning.

All were published on the Association web site seeking comments by members before submission of a response to each one.

The meeting also noted the current consultations with members for comment as follows:

- A plan for an Ageing Wales
- Solid Fuels in homes in Wales
- Wales Clean Air Bill for Wales

#### **15. Dates for 2020-2021 Meetings**

The meeting noted the dates for the 2020-2021 meetings of the Association:

**Quarterly Meetings** (either by Zoom or face to face depending upon restrictions)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 Annual Meeting

Meetings start at 10.30am

**Executive Meetings**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices at 10.30am (when restrictions allow) or by Zoom.

**16. Any other matters of business**

The meeting considered the following items of business raised by Members of the Executive.

**i) Marketing booklet**

The new information booklet for new members and others is published and can be seen on the web site. There are also hard copies and these are being mailed out to each member council.

**ii) Web Site update**

The meeting considered an update to the web site to include the North Coast Transport Liaison Committee. Cost no more than £100. This was **approved**.

**17. CJC's**

The meeting were informed of another level of government being put in place (CJC's) being Joint Committees between County Councils. These will be non-elected bodies with their own staff. The cost of this level of government is not inconsiderable.

Their remit may include taking over (as a regional authority) transport, education, social services etc.

The meeting wished to be kept up to date with this subject at the next meeting of the Association.

The meeting also **agreed** that the secretary write and find out how Town and Community Councils will be represented and if the Association could have a member as part of this.

**18. Actions to be taken forward**

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

No	Action
1	Circulate minutes and publish on web site
2	Letter to Health Minister on Covid 19 over 80's information.
3	Letter to Health Minister on volunteering issues with help on Covid 19 vaccinations.
4	Publish with Flooding added to action plan the 2020-2025 approved plans.
5	Send out booklets to all members.
6	Set up first Transport Committee Meeting.
7	Alter web site to include Transport Meetings.



No	Action
8	Letter to all Members seeking a representative on the Transport Committee recommending (if possible) a member with some rail experience.
9	Letter to Minister at Welsh Government on Business Rates.
10	Include Council Tax review on the next meeting agenda.
11	Write and find out how Town and Community Councils will be represented and if the Association could have a member as part the new Corporate Joint Committees.



## ACTIONS FROM THE FUTURE POLICY PLAN 2021 TO 2025

Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
1	<b>Consultations</b>	To bring forward and respond to consultations by the Welsh Government and Parliament (where it affects Wales) for the Members to approve.	To monitor both Welsh Government and Parliamentary web sites to identify in good time consultations of relevance.  To attend Welsh Government Committees to give oral evidence when useful.	<b>1</b>
2	<b>Local Council Funding</b>	Local Councils are being asked to take on more services locally without any extra funding support.  The policy is to support an initiative which provides funding for local council services direct from Welsh Government.	To monitor Welsh Government progress with the Local Council Review.  To respond to any consultations on the subject supporting the funding policy.	<b>3</b>
3	<b>North Coast Railways</b>	The North Coast and Conwy Valley railways are important the economy of North Wales.  The policy is to support direct liaison between Local Councils, Transport for Wales, Network Rail, Rail Partnership and the British Transport Police	To monitor changes in rail provision for 2022 onwards.  To monitor and comment on rolling stock provision.  To monitor and comment on timetables.	<b>1</b>



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
3.	<b>North Coast Railways (continued)</b>	<p>To support improvements to the North Coast stations.</p> <p>To support the provision of trains which have adequate seating provision, adequate toilet provision and an adequate stock level to deliver the services to be provided from 2022.</p> <p>To support the provision of better connections direct to London from the North Coast.</p>	<p>To seek to ensure the provision of good rolling stock which meets the needs of the line.</p> <p>To liaise with all parties with regard the provision of rail services.</p>	<b>1</b>
4	<b>North Coast Line Railways</b>	<p>To support the provision of a full clock face hourly timetable on the main Cambrian Line.</p> <p>To support improvements to the stations on the North Coast Lines.</p> <p>To support the provision of trains which have adequate seating provision, adequate toilet provision and an adequate stock level to deliver the services to be in place 2022.</p>	<p>To support the provision of a good reliable service on the Main lines.</p> <p>To keep open the smaller stations closed short term due to Corona Virus.</p>	<b>1</b>



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
5	<b>Local Buses</b>	<p>The Association is aware of the importance of local buses to rural communities in particular.</p> <p>The policy is to support the retention of as many local buses as possible.</p>	To monitor and comment when necessary seeking the implementation of the policy.	<b>2</b>
6	<b>Climate Change</b>	To complete the policies contained in the Association Climate Change Policy.	See separate action plan at appendix C.	<b>2</b>
7	<b>Renewable energy</b>	<p>To support member Councils where they object to large scale off shore wind farm developments where they affect the viability, nature and tourism of the areas concerned.</p> <p>To support member Councils where they object to large scale on shore wind farm developments where they are close to towns and villages where it affects the viability, nature and tourism of the areas concerned.</p> <p>To support member Councils where they object to wind farm transportation through towns where it affects the viability, nature and tourism.</p>	To monitor and respond to any large scale wind farms or pylon lines in line with the policy.	<b>3</b>





Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
7	<b>Renewable energy (continued)</b>	To support member Councils where they object to substantial overhead power lines close to towns and villages where it affects the viability, nature and tourism of the areas concerned.		<b>3</b>
8	<b>Business Rates &amp; Charity Shops</b>	The policy is to seek to change the Use Class Order to include for an A6 (registered charity retail units) to separate these uses from general retail.  This in turn helps non charity uses with rent reviews.	To seek a business rate review to implement the policy.	<b>4</b>
9	<b>Business Rates</b>	To seek a review of the business rates system to provide a more fair approach.	To discuss and agree a suggested way forward for presentation to the authorities.	<b>4</b>
10	<b>Council Tax</b>	To seek a review of the business rates system to provide a more fair approach.	To discuss and agree a suggested way forward for presentation to the authorities.	<b>4</b>
11	<b>Magistrates Courts</b>	The loss of magistrates courts in North Wales is of concern, particularly due to the fact that local transport is poor and therefore getting to the courts is difficult.  This policy will support keeping open as many of the local magistrate courts as is possible.	To monitor and respond as necessary to meet the policy.	<b>5</b>



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
12	<b>Policing – PCSO's</b>	<p>The concern of the Association was the mix of PCSO duties in various areas, the more powers PCSO's have the better.</p> <p>The policy is to seek to support giving more powers to CPSO's in all member areas.</p>	To seek via the Welsh Government a single policy on PCSO powers in each Police Area.	<b>3</b>
13	<b>Alcohol licencing</b>	<p>The consultation process via local communities with regard to licencing applications is not common and needs to more robust. The policy is to seek that consultations on licencing include a statutory approach to Local Councils for their views.</p>	To seek via the Welsh Government a requirement upon County Councils to consult Local Councils on licencing matters.	<b>4</b>
14	<b>North South road link</b>	<p>The delivery of a north south road link is considered important and of urgent need. The policy is to support the programme and implementation of the north south road link in Wales.</p>	To support the provision of a good road link between North and South Wales.	<b>3</b>
15	<b>Local Council Charters</b>	<p>The Association has received presentations regarding working charters between County and Local Councils. The policy is to seek support the introduction of charters.</p>	To support Local Councils in their quest to gain a Charter with their County Council in line with the Local Government Wales Measure 2010.	<b>4</b>



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
16	<b>Homeless Provision</b>	<p>To support initiatives which provide more help for the homeless including changes in legislation if required.</p> <p>To monitor the homeless numbers in the area of the Association to ensure members are up to date with this along with what is currently being achieved to address these issues.</p>		<b>1</b>
17	<b>One Voice Wales</b>	<p>The Association has given a clear indication that it wishes to remain as a separate independent body to One Voice Wales.</p> <p>The policy is to seek closer co-operation with One Voice Wales without any prerequisite to be members.</p>	To provide agenda and minutes to One Voice Wales via the Association Web Site.	<b>3</b>
18.	<b>Flood Plains</b>	Support provision with planning laws regarding construction in flood plain areas.	To support through the planning system and other means flood defences and flood prevention schemes.	<b>2</b>

**PRIORITY LEVELS CHART**

5	4	3	2	1
To implement policy as and when the subjects come forward.	To implement policy as time permits.	To take forward the policy within the plan period.	To actively take forward the policy reporting on a quarterly basis.	To actively campaign to gain changes to enable the policy to be met.

