



MINUTES

of the quarterly meeting of the **Association** held on
Friday 23rd July 2021 at 10.30am
by Zoom

1. Record of attendance:

Cllr P Morton Chair	St Asaph City Council
Cllr A Ashworth Vice Chair	Denbigh Town Council
Cllr S Beach	Ruthin Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondak	Buckley Town Council
Cllr J Butterworth President	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr G Baker	Bay of Colwyn Town Council
Cllr B Bertola	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr K Davies	Holywell Town Council
Cllr M Davies	Menai Bridge Town Council
Cllr P Davies	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr S Jones-Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr S License	Flint Town Council
Cllr B Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr H Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Cllr B McLoughlin	Towyn and Kinmell Bay
Gareth Nickels	Town Clerk Rhyl Town Council
Cllr A Woolley	Buckley Town Council
Cllr P York	Holywell Town Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary/Treasurer

2. Apologies for absence received from:

Steve Goodrum and Cllr J Bryant.

3. Minutes of the last Full Association Meeting – April 2021

The meeting approved the minutes of the last full Association meeting held in April 2021.

4. Actions from and since last meeting

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



5. Consultation on local authority power to trade

The meeting considered the Welsh Government Bill whereby Town and Community Councils could gain the power to trade if they meet set criteria. The criteria is understood to be:

Properly produced and audited accounts for two years.
A substantial number of Councillors elected not co-opted.
A suitably qualified Clerk.
The meeting noted that such arrangements would be a Power and not a Duty.

On the basis that it is optional and not compulsory the Association **agreed** to support the proposals.

6. To receive a Health report for both North and Mid Wales

The meeting considered a short update on Health matters in North Wales and Mid Wales.

It was noted that the Betsi Cadwaladr Trust was now out of special measures but still needed much improvement.

The issue of 999 calls for ambulances was noted (in particular non-essential calls).

7. Review of the Future Plan objectives

To consider a review of progress towards the plan objectives.

The Secretary gave an update on where the high priority subjects were.

- a) Discussions are continuing with Welsh Government over a Minister for North Wales. A meeting is awaited.
- b) Rail Services along the North Coast have been an important topic and a lot of work has taken place on this subject. See item below.
- c) Homeless is still a topic of concern and will appear on future agenda.
- d) Consultations have been responded to as required.

8. North Wales Coast Transport

The meeting received an update on the work of this Committee – in particular the Station Audits and Dementia Audit for the North Coast Line.

The Secretary brought the meeting up to date with regard to the following:

- a) The design of trains serving both the North Coast and Cambrian Lines.
- b) Meeting with CEO of Transport for Wales with Welsh Government.
- c) Issues around stations with short platforms.
- d) The station audit which has been accepted by TfW and passed to the station improvements group.



- e) The dementia audit which has also been accepted by TfW and passed to station improvements group.

Members raised a number of issues around station improvements made recently with little regards for dementia.

The meeting **agreed** that Cllr Peter Morton should continue to chair the North Wales Transport Liaison Committee.

9. Parliamentary Boundaries

The subject of the parliamentary review was raised which would see a reduction in MP's from 40 to 32 in Wales.

As soon as the consultation is online the secretary will bring it to the meeting.

10.20 mph speed limits

A discussion took place around 20mph limits in towns. Rhyl has most of its central roads the subject of a 20mph limit. However it is not popular with residents, often not adhered to and there appears to be little enforcement. Old Conwy had asked to have such a scheme but was turned down at this time.

11. Holywell Transport issues

The representatives from Holywell outlined their concerns around public transport in Holywell. These concerns will be taken up in the North Wales Transport Liaison Committee.

12. Electric cars

Holywell Town Council is also concerned about the introduction of electric cars and how this might impact on those who still have petrol/diesel vehicles. A copy of the letter from Holywell Town Council is set out here:

Dear Robert,

Holywell TC has just sent a letter to Delyn SM and Jason our Clerk has or will send it to you. At our May meeting the Town Council agreed unanimously to send a copy to you. We will also copy to Jane Hutt. I am the original author.

I am concerned that with the diesel/petrol cut off brought forward to 2035 (I heard 2030 mentioned on radio recently) and car manufacturers talk of ending diesel/petrol production in 5 year, many people especially the less well-off and those in rural or disadvantaged areas are likely to be left stranded in any transition but also long term.



Public transport is at best inadequate. Many will not afford the HP or £200 plus monthly lease of new electric models. Petrol and diesel cars will become unavailable (and valueless) and second hand electric cars will not meet demand.

Certainly where we live, public transport will not meet all the various needs - work, social and recreational, hospital and health, educational. The uptake of cycle travel is at best unpredictable. Some face a sedentary future.

This will matter in our whole Association area, thus I think we should air the point at one of our meetings - soon hopefully.

I would like to know our political leaders are aware of likely problems and have suitable plans to address them - but I am not confident and we are likely to see a variety of patch up and fudge solutions and possibly a compromising of the decarbonising agenda. I do not want to see any "green" policies derailed because of political expediency.

13. Dates for 2021-2022 Meetings

The meeting noted the dates for the meeting in 2021/2022 as per those agreed at the Annual Meeting.

When it is safe to do so the Association can meet in person. This maybe sometime yet.

14. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions to be taken forward from the meeting.

No	Item
1	Prepare minutes and post on website
2	Accounts for 2020-2021 audit
3	Holywell transport issues to be raised at the transport liaison meeting
4	Meeting with Welsh Government over a minister for North Wales to be progressed.
5	Invite Police and Crime Commission to the October meeting.
6	Respond to the Power to Trade consultation
7	Raise the subject of electric cars with the Executive at its next meeting