



MINUTES

of the quarterly meeting of the **Association** held on
Friday 22nd October 2021 at 10.30am
held by Zoom

1. Police and Crime Commissioner

The meeting received a presentation from Andy Dunbobbin (police and crime commissioner).

The main points made in this presentation were:

- i) Safer areas, support victims, improve systems and increase officers on the beat and back up staff.
- ii) Local intelligence is very important.
- iii) The main policies related to:
 - a. Vehicle driving standards
 - b. Domestic and sexual abuse
 - c. New female offenders strategy
 - d. Victims panel

The Commission will share the Policing Plan when it is ready and the secretary can then pass it out to the members.

Cllr Arnold Woolley pointed out that the police were under great strain and doing a good job in the circumstances.

Some national figures were shared to demonstrate this as follows:

- 2007 the UK records show 141,892 officers
- 2017 the UK records show 123,142 officers
- 2007 the UK population was 62.3m
- 2017 the UK population was 67.2m
- 2010 the UK had 30m cars registered
- 2029 the UK had 32.9m cars registered

The meeting expressed its thanks to both Police representatives present.

2. Record of attendance

Present were

Cllr Peter Morton Chair	St Asaph City Council
Cllr Myfanwy Baines	
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Michaels Davies	Menai Bridge Town Council
Cllr Peter Davies	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllrs Eric Faulkner	Connah's Quay Town Council



Record of attendance (continued)

Cllr Mrs Faulkner	Connah's Quay Town Council
Steve Goodrum Town Clerk	Connah's Quay Town Council
Martin Hanks Town Clerk	Penmaenmawr Town Council
Cllr Paul Johnson	
Cllr Stuart License	Flint Town Council
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Towyn and Kinmell Bay Town Council
Cllr Paul Richards	Bay of Colwyn Town Council
Cllr Brian Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Shirley Jones-Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Arnold Woolley	Buckley Town Council
Robert Robinson Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner
Carl Fawkes	North Wales Police

Apologies were received from

Cllr Joan Butterfield President	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Alyn Ashworth Vice Chair	Denbigh Town Council
Cllr Glenys Baker	
Cllr Steve Beach	Ruthin Town Council
Cllr Brian Bertola	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Karen Davies	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Community Council
Jill Ellison Town Clerk	St Asaph City Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Conwy Town Council
Cllr Peter York	Holywell Town Council

3. Minutes of the last Full Association Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last full Association meeting held in on 23rd July 2021.

4. To welcome new member Councils to the meeting

Those present welcomed two new member Councils to the Association being Holyhead Town Council and Llanfair Caereinion Town Council.

5. Actions from and since last meeting

The meeting received the secretary's report on actions taken since the last meeting as per those on the agenda.



6. Health report for both North and Mid Wales

The meeting discussed concerns surrounding the Betis Cadwallader Trust hospital service. The meeting **agreed** that a following up presentation by the Trust should take place at the next meeting. The secretary is to arrange for this to happen.

It was noted that the Covid 19 cases were rising fast and some areas such as Powys were now among the highest rates even though they are a very rural area with a small population.

7. To receive a report on Homeless in North and Mid Wales

The meeting consider an update on Homeless issues.

It appears since Covid 19 the real level of homeless is now coming forth with 12,400 seeking help in the last 18 months. This has led to an increase in spending for support from £185m to £250m. This is somewhat more than reported before.

The secretary had just received a consultation on homeless legislation and will prepare a response for comment taking on board the discussion at this meeting. This included 'sofa surfing' where people move from home to home to get by. It was also noted that there was a small percentage which did not wish to have a permanent home.

The meeting also consider the issues around lack of homes for local people when homes are found when needed for other emergencies.

There was also an issue identified around the delay in probate which is leaving homes empty awaiting sale. The secretary is to look into this aspect and report back. The meeting felt that in straight forward cases this process could be speeded up considerably.

8. North Wales Coast Transport

To consider matters relating to transport in Wales as follows:

The secretary outlined the latest news on Transport for Wales. There are some good things happening but train delays are now much to regular.

It appears that there are some issues with the number of buses operating from Carnarvon and Llandudno which were every 15 minutes but are now often 30 minutes. The secretary is to contact Arriva to see what is causing the issues.



The issues around Electric cars and Transport Issues in Holywell were left until the next meeting when representatives from Holywell could be present.

9. Colwyn Bay Station

The secretary had received a request from the Clerk that the Association supports Bay of Colwyn Town Council in its response to the consultation on the station forecourt. The meeting **agreed** to support leaving the pedestrianized zone at the station for safety reasons. The secretary is to write to Transport for Wales and also inform the Clerk to Bay of Colwyn Town Council of this.

10. Port of Holyhead

The meeting discussed the issues around the effect of Brexit on Holyhead as a port. The local MP (Annette Crosby) is seeking Free Port status for Holyhead but is not getting any support from the Welsh Government.

The secretary informed the meeting what 'free port' status meant and it was mainly around tax relief and payments to encourage economic recovery.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the secretary would write to Welsh Government seeking their views and also contact the local MP to see what support we can offer.

11. Consultations

The meeting noted the consultations completed since the last meeting which were:

- a) 20mph limits in towns
- b) Qualified Clerks
- c) Rating appeals based upon Covid 19

12. Independent Review Panel of Wales

The meeting considered the latest report of the IRPW affecting Community Councils. The Chair and the Secretary met with the Panel who were not to receptive to the Association standpoint.

The meeting **agreed** that the secretary should write with the following points regarding the final annual report consultation.

- a) To seek Mandatory allowances for care be only compulsory on Councils is category A and it should be optional in categories B and C. If this is not acceptable to the IRPW then the category C should be lifted to £100,000 and not capped at £30,000.
- b) To write to Welsh Government seeking funding to help Town and Community Councils meet some of the larger allowances.
- c) The timing of the Annual Reports and consultation period was poor and should not be held during holiday periods.



- d) To ensure there is clarity taxation and recording of allowances. In particular to support the Councils being able to record the allowances in their own way.
- e) The IRPW did confirm that Payroll is not compulsory and that taxation is a matter for Councillors themselves and not the Council Clerks.
- f) Concern was expressed that some Clerks are paying councillors allowances as if they were employees which is not correct.
- g) The secretary is to contact HRMC on the matter of taxation on allowances and in particular the £150.

All Town and Community Council members are advised to ensure their Councillors know that they must divulge their allowances to the Tax Office.

13. Boundary Commission (MP boundary changes)

The meeting was reminded of the above consultation taking place. It was agreed that it was up to individual councils to make any appropriate responses.

14. Dates for next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Friday 21st January 2022 at 10.30am. The meeting may be by Zoom or in person depending upon the Covid 19 situation.

15. Actions to be taken forward

The actions to be taken forward from the meeting are:

No	Action
1	Prepare minutes, circulate and post them on the website
2	Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner thanking him for his attendance
3	Write to the Clerk at Bay of Colwyn Council informing of the decision to support pedestrianisation of Colwyn Bay Station.
4	Write to Transport for Wales confirming (3) above.
5	Invite the Betsi Cadwallader Trust to the next meeting of the Association in January.
6	Write to Welsh Government seeking their stance on Holyhead and it becoming a 'free port'.
7	To contact Annette Crosby MP for Anglesey regarding (6) above
8	Contact Arriva over the bus issues between Llandudno and Carnarvon
9	Prepare consultation paper and responses on the latest homeless bill from Welsh Government
10	Write to Welsh Government expressing concern that housing can be found in emergencies but not for those on the housing list.



	Continued
11	Write with Associations views on the IRPW annual report.
12	Write to Welsh Government regarding possible payments to Community Councils to help cover the cost of the larger allowances.