



## **MINUTES**

of the quarterly meeting of the **Association** held on  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 at 10.30am**  
**held at Boderw, St Asaphs**

### **1. Present were**

Present were:

Cllr Peter Morton (Chair)	St Asaph City Council
Cllr Alyn Ashworth (Vice Chair)	Denbigh Town Council
Cllr Joan Butterworth MBE (President)	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Peter Scott	Mayor of St Asaph City Council
Cllr Glenys Baker	Bay of Colwyn Town Council
Jason Baker (Town Clerk)	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Karen Davies	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Community Council
Cllr Eric Faulkner	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Gill Faulkner	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Towyn and Kinmell Bay
Cllr Barry Mellor	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Brian Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Shirley Jones-Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Cllr Selwyn Williams	Meni Bridge Town Council
Cllr Arnold Woolley	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Peter York	Holywell Town Council
Robert Robinson (Secretary)	Llanfair Town Council

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr B Bertola (Llandudno), Cllr M Lyons (Llandudno), Cllr Helen Roberts (Colwyn), Cllr M Davies (Menai Bridge), J Nickels (Rhyl) and Jill Ellison (St Asaph).

### **3. Welcome**

The meeting received a welcome from Cllr Peter Scott Mayor of St Asaph City Council and from the Chair Cllr Peter Morton.

### **4. Minutes of the last Full Association Meeting**

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last full Association meeting held in January 2022.



## 5. Actions from and since last meeting

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

No	Item	Status
1	Prepare minutes and post on website	Completed
2	Accounts for 2020-2021 audit	Under way
3	Holywell transport issues to be raised at the transport liaison meeting	On agenda for this meeting
4	Meeting with Welsh Government over a minister for North Wales to be progressed.	On-going
5	Invite Betsi Cadwallader Health Board to the January meeting.	See minute no 7 below.
6	Respond to the Homeless Consultation	Completed
7	Raise the subject of electric cars with the Executive at its next meeting (Holywell request)	On agenda for this meeting

## 6. Financial Report

6.1 The meeting received a financial report from the Secretary.

6.2 The end of year bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was £5,893.74p.

6.3 Web Site – the Secretary pointed out that the Association web site was not bilingual and has been in place for over 10 years. The Secretary suggested that the members look at the new Tourism website for Llanfair Caereinion which has the latest auto translator. The website address is [llanfaircaereinion.org](http://llanfaircaereinion.org). If the website translator is acceptable with regards the Association may wish to renew its website – cost approx. £400. The matter will be on the agenda for the next meeting for consideration.

## 7. Hospital and healthcare in North Wales

The meeting noted the letter received regarding Alexandra Hospital.

The concern of the meeting regarding healthcare in North Wales was very evident due to the extensive discussion held on the subject.

The main points made were:



The meeting **RESOLVED** (with a unanimous vote) to take forward the following actions:

**Meeting with Betsi Cadwallader Trust (senior executives)**

To attended by the Chair, Secretary and Cllr V Blondek

**Meeting with Minister (or Senior Officials) Welsh Government**

To be attended by the Chair, Secretary and Cllr V Blondek

Due to the interest in the subject a further discussion is to take place at either the next or October Quarterly meeting.

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

The members received a short report on the latest position as it is known.

The President suggested that there was nothing further for us to do at this time but that we should all keep the subject under review.

**9. North Wales Coast Transport**

9.1 The meeting considered a report from the Committee (meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022) with the main points relating to TFW being:

- i) Apparently the new trains will have better toilet facilities – however there is still only one toilet per 2 car unit. Alex is to take back the dissatisfaction that this is the case. *This subject is ongoing.*
- ii) There are poor audible announcements on most of the trains. This is probably down to training. Alex is to take this back for action. *It has been pointed out Tfw that this is a training issue and needs to be addressed.*
- iii) Disabled access was raised, this is improving and more is being done. *Tfw accept that they have learned a lot about bus replacement services and accept access has to improve.*
- iv) Llandudno was cited as a Community Hub, however it closes at 3pm at the present time. Alex is to take this away to seek longer opening hours. *No change proposed at this time.*
- v) Overcrowding in the summer months is still an issue. Transport for Wales is working on solutions to this. *Little evidence has been noted that this is being addressed.*
- vi) The Station Audit and Dementia is progressing albeit slowly. *A new Dementia Officer has been appointed so it is hoped things will now move forward. Station improvements are progressing albeit slowly.*



- vii) *Many of the Liaison Groups set up have felt that they need to be more effective to be worthwhile. TfW accepts this and a remit for all groups will be sent out in the next 2-3 weeks and will be circulated to members for comment when it arrives.*
- viii) *Holyhead Station has been allocated £20,000 for further business case work towards its re-opening.*
- ix) *£690,000 has been allocated to improve interchanges at Chester and Shotton.*

9.2 The meeting noted the new services to London with regard to Avanti as follows:

Ex Euston	Ex Holyhead
To Holyhead	To London Euston
0910	0448
1010	0551
1610	1257
1810	1450
1910	

Ex Llandudno Junction to London Euston  
0618  
0721  
1427  
1620

It was suggested that perhaps a later morning service to London Euston departing Holyhead around 0830-0900 would be beneficial

9.3 To meeting noted the announcement that the A55 improvements are not going forward.

## **10 Holyhead Port**

The secretary reported that letters were sent to both Westminster and Welsh Government with the following replies:

- I) Westminster – no reply – it was **AGREED** that a further letter should be sent seeking a reply asap and expressing our disappointment that no reply had been received.
- II) Welsh Government – non committal reply – it was **AGREED** that a letter should be sent asking for more commitment and information on what the government is doing on this subject.



## **11 Council Tax**

The meeting considered this subject as a review is due to take place soon.

The meeting **AGREED** that whatever system is introduced it should be income related if possible. A letter in response to the consultation is to be sent on that basis.

## **12 Consultations**

The meeting noted the legislation making its way forward with regards to planning use class order changes regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and short holiday lets along with the increases in taxation.

It was considered that tourism was an important part of making decisions on this subject and that there had to be a balance. The meeting was of the view that this balance was not right at this time.

## **13 Elections**

The meeting was asked to consider why (in their view) there has been a general lack of interest in standing for election to Town and Community Councils. Many Councils do not have elections with either just enough to fill the seats or not having enough to fill the places.

The following views were expressed:

- i) The nomination forms were not easily found on Council websites.
- ii) More engagement with schools and young people needed to gain more interest.
- iii) Forms difficult to complete.
- iv) Lack of interest as people generally felt they were not listened to.
- v) Publicity in some areas poor with people not knowing elections were taking place or how to put their names forward.
- vi) A candidate's pack was issued by some Town Councils which helps explain what it is all about.
- vii) Abuse and discourteous behaviour towards and between candidates has not helped.

Due to the interest in this subject it is to be put on a future agenda for full discussion to enable a document to be produced for submission to Welsh Government (electoral division) and to the Boundary Commission for Wales.

The meeting also agreed to invite Planning Aid Wales to attend a future meeting for a planning discussion.

**14 Insurances**

The Secretary advised all member Councils to make sure that their insurance values on buildings are up to date and to add 10% to any valuation. This is advice from the Insurance Conference attended by the Secretary and is in view of the rising costs situation being currently experienced.

**15 Any other matters of business**

14.1 The Secretary reminded Councillors that they may attend the July meeting even if they are not elected or are not standing for election as their term is until that meeting.

15.3 The Secretary is very aware that after any general election there are changes in attendees. The Secretary will write to each individual Council to gain the new members details and encourage them to continue membership.

**16 Date for next meeting**

To note the dates for future meeting.

**Quarterly Meetings**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 – Annual Meeting  
Meeting at Connah's Quay Civic Halls

**Executive Meetings**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

All meetings start at 10.30am and will be by Zoom (Executive) and in person (Main meetings).

**17 Actions to be taken forward**

The following actions are to be taken forward:

Ref	Action	Involved
1	Prepare and circulate minutes including posting on the web site.	Secretary
2	Arrange Hospital Care meetings	Secretary, Chair and Cllr V Blondek
3	Invite Planning Aid Wales to a meeting	Secretary
4	Put elections on a future agenda	Secretary
5	Put Hospital care on a future agenda	Secretary
6	Circulate planning guidance for Town Councils	Secretary
7	Send letter on Council Tax to Welsh Government	Secretary
8	Send letters regarding Holyhead Port	Secretary