

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

of a meeting held on
Friday 12th May 2023 at 11.45am at
The offices of Aberystwyth Town Council Baker Street Aberystwyth
or by zoom and in person

Present were:

Cllr Trevor Roberts
Cllr Michael Williams
Robert Robinson
Gail Jones
Thomas Roberts
Claire Williams
Ann Alias
Cllr Jeremy Barnes
John Eddison
Angus Eickhoff
Ken Law
Cllr Chris Lemon
Wendy Lewis
Cllr Jeff Smith
Cllr Eryl Jones-Williams
Cllr Andrew Wallbank
Cllr Alun Williams
Cllr Dylan Wilson-Lewis

Chair
Vice Chair Powys County & Machynlleth Town Council
Secretary Llanfair Caereinion Town Council
Transport for Wales
Network Rail
Cambrian Rail Partnership
Ceredigion County Council
Carno Com Council & Carno Station action group.
Carno Station Action Group
SARPA
Welshpool Station Facebook Users Group
Shrewsbury Town Council
Welshpool Town Council
Aberystwyth Town Council and SARPA
Chair Cambrian Coast Conference and Gwynedd CC
Caersws Community Council
Ceredigion County Council & Aberystwyth Town Council

Apologies received from:

Cllr Richard Church
Paul Hinge
Cllr Anne Lloyd-Jones
Chris Wilson
Andrew Wood
David Wyke

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.



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2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last Cambrian meeting subject to including 'access to the new shelter at Welshpool' and Welshpool station adoption.

3. Actions since last meeting

The meeting noted the actions taken since the last meeting.

The secretary expressed some concern that many items are on the agenda very often with little resolution to the issues by the rail operators.

4. Closure for works

To note the closure of the lines for trackwork as follows:

Main line

From 5th to 22nd May – no trains Shrewsbury to Machynlleth.

Coastline

Barmouth Bridge works – in autumn.

Bus replacement

There are no replacement bus timetables at stations as TFW policy, they are only available on the app. The meeting was unhappy about this as the app is only one method of communication. The secretary is take up publicity of replacement bus timetables at a higher level.

5. Cambrian Main Line

The meeting received an update from Gail Jones of Transport for Wales.

The matters raised were:

- i) The lack of bus replacement information (see above).
- ii) The issues with train running continue.
- iii) Lack of bi-lingual announcements on trains along the Cambrian Lines.
- iv) Audibility of announcements on trains is varied with some good and some poor.
- v) Station audit (General and Dementia) – some work is continuing on this.
- vi) Meetings regarding the audit and Welshpool Station with TFW have still not taken place, Gail Jones is to chase these for an early date.
- vii) The footbridge and maintenance/gritting/cleaning at Welshpool – a further meeting between the owners of the bridge is take place this month to try and resolve the issues.

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Cont....

Gail Jones will

The meeting received an update from Network Rail.

6. Cambrian Coast Line

The meeting received an update from Gail Jones of Transport for Wales.

The matters raised were:

- i) The lack of capacity along the line, this is being worked on at present.
- ii) The length of trains and platform length.
- iii) The need for bus replacement service timetables well in advance.

7. Cambrian Rail Partnership

The meeting received an update and news from the Cambrian Rail Partnership. (the newsletter was circulated to all members prior to the meeting).

The main points of note included:

- i) The partnership has a new logo and map – the logo being chosen by the public.
- ii) Pocket timetables continue to be printed.
- iii) Small grants scheme (up to £1,500)
- iv) Newtown Station – possible use of station building – maybe with ticket sales.

The search for a new Chair continues with no appointment made. Anyone interested should contact Claire Williams.

8. New timetables December 2023

To consider the implications of the new timetables due to commence December 2023 – considering the Ministers and TFW statements that the ERTMS stock will only serve the Cambrian Lines.

The issues of concern to the group are:

- i) The timetable with split trains at Shrewsbury when a train from Birmingham International arrive and divides to Holyhead and the Cambrian Lines. The current timetable proposed does not appear to allow time for splitting the train.



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- ii) The 197 units take longer to divide and couple up than others due to technology.

Network Rail agreed to meet the Chair and Secretary to explore the issues.

Confirmation was given that there will be more line closures over the next two years on the Cambrian Lines for essential track works.

9. Update on Carno Station

The meeting received an update on any progress with regards to Carno Station re-opening. A letter had been received that morning from Welsh Government confirming more news in the next month.

10. Station Audits

The meeting received an update on station audits (both dementia and general) There is work progressing on the audits, more news will be published when we are able to.

11. Surveys

The meeting considered the document regarding surveys for 2023 and 2024 after the new train services are introduced.

The number of train services to be included in the survey will depend upon volunteers. An appeal for help will be issued in the next month.

12. Other matters

12.1 Carnarvon – Bangor line

The meeting noted the petition regarding the re-opening of this line. Due to the number of signatures received this will now be discussed at the Senedd.

12.2 Steam along the coast with ERMS

The subject of some steam engines in the UK now being fitted with signalling systems were raised. The Coast has been writing to Welsh Government on this subject. This committee will monitor progress but take no action at this time.

12.3 Welshpool Station improvements

Discussions on the subject will continue soon. Any proposals would come to this committee for full discussion before being taken forward. The rail authorities will then further discussions through the executive.

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12.4 Information

The secretary agreed to issue a regular update to the meetings on activities so members are up to date. Any relevant news on Coast Line from the Cambrian Conference should be passed to the secretary for inclusion.

13. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the date of the next meeting as follows:

North Wales /Cambrian Transport – Friday 14th July 2023 at 10.30am

North Wales Transport – Friday 6th October 2023 at 10.30am by zoom.

Cambrian Transport – Friday 13th October 2023 at 11.45am

North Wales/Cambrian Transport – Friday 10th November 2023 at 10.30am to consider the survey reports.

14. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

No	Action	By
1	Issue minutes in draft and publish on the website.	R Robinson
2	Meeting with Network Rail on timetables to be arranged.	R Robinson, T Roberts and T Roberts
3	Meetings on station audits and Welshpool Station to be actioned.	Gail Jones
4	Updates to be introduced.	R Robinson
5	Discussions on Welshpool Station footbridge to be completed.	Gail Jones
6	Survey to be taken forward.	R Robinson
7	Issue of replacement bus timetables to be taken forward.	R Robinson

15. Website

The website is at northwalesassociation.org.uk

There is a new website at design stage which will come forward over the coming few months.

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