MINUTES
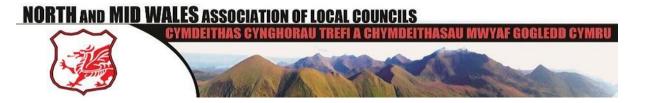
**of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association
held on Friday 21st July 2023 at 10.30am at
the Civic Halls Connah's Quay**

Present:

Cllr Ian Hodge chair	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies vice chair	Flint Town Council
Cllr Joan Butterfield president	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Alyn Ashworth	Denbigh Town Council
Cllr Stephen Beach	Ruthin Town Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Bill Crease	Connah's Quay Town council
Cllr Lynette Edwards	Caerwys Community Council
Cllr Lynda Griffiths	Towyn & Kinmell Bay Town Council
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin	Towyn & Kinmell Bay Town Council
Cllr Alan Manship	Connah's Quay Town Council
Cllr Bob Murray	Prestatyn Town Council
Cllr Peter Morton	St Asaph City Council
Cllr Jabez Oakes	Ruthin Town Council
Cllr Alan Owen	Connah's Quay Town Council
Gareth Nichols	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Michael Pearce	Llandudno Town Council
Cllr Lorraine Rathbone	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Helen Roberts	Colwyn Town Council
Cllr Jackie Webster	Colwyn Town Council
Cllr Adrian West	Prestatyn Town Council
Robert Robinson Secretary	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

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Apologies for absence:

Cllr Lynda Carter	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr David Evans,	Shotton Town Council
Cllr Paul Fletcher	
Cllr Shirley Jones-Roberts	Abergele Town Council
Town Clerk	St Asaph City Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town Council

1. Smart Towns

The meeting received a presentation from Kiki and Alan on the SMART TOWN'S initiative for Wales.

The main points of interest from the presentation were:

i) Funding is available to support digital schemes.
ii) Town Wi-Fi is part of the scheme.
iii) Provides information and data to aid better decision making.
iv) Community engagement and community support.
v) Scheme into 2nd phase – 130 towns already have a scheme in place.
vi)
vii) You gain information from the system on footfall, dwell times and where people have been. This enables planning for tourism much easier.
viii) There are various aspects which could save money to larger councils, such a monitoring when planters need watering etc.
ix) Digital screen scheme to promote events and the town.
x) Digital place plans were explained.
xi) Start point – workshops and action plans.
xii) Information can help with grant applications.
xiii) Can include visitor records.
xiv) Examples of how other towns have used smart towns given.

Some of the member councils had already engaged in the Smart Towns projects.

The detail contained in the slides from the presentations will be circulated to members when they are received by the secretary.

The contact detail for Adam Greenwood is *adam@owendaviesconsulting.co.uk* and for Kiki is *kiki@mentermon.com*

2. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in April 2023.

3. Actions taken from the last meeting

The meeting noted the actions taken since the last meeting.

No	Activity	Action by
1	Publish minutes on the website	Completed
2	Letter of thanks to Virginia Crosbie MP	Completed
3	Progress with new web site with new information format	Completed.
4	Prepare and launch a Facebook page	In place ready for discussion at the next executive meeting.
5	Publish in minutes the Morcombe wind farm site	Link issued to members
6	Arrange to meet Minister's Office regarding A55 traffic maybe on zoom at a future meeting.	Welsh Government is willing to meet, a date can be arranged when clarity on what we wish to discuss is agreed at the next executive.
7	Arrange rail survey details	Arranged
8	Letter to Minister on health concerns	Completed.
9	Letter to each council on youth representatives	Completed
10	To take forward the youth forum	It is hoped that the first meeting will be held in September 2023.

4. Health

The meeting received an update on the Betsi Cadwallader Trust from Cllr Vivienne Blondek.

5. Transport Committee

The meeting received an update on matters of relevance from the Transport for Wales.

The main points were:

i) Due to the issues with the class 175 trains some trains will be class 150. These are ex valley lines trains sometimes with no toilet facilities and they are slower causing some delays.

ii) The Birmingham to Holyhead service is at present a 4-car unit. Under the new timetables early in 2024 these units will be 2 car.

iii) Transport for Wales has confirmed that there are no booking office closures planned for Wales.

The train surveys planned for August are progressing with both the North Coast and Cambrian Lines.

6.   Holyhead
The meeting received a report from Cllr Peter Morton from the Holyhead Free Port reception following the declaration. It was noted that Cllr Michael Davies also attended.

7.   Youth provision
The youth form is ready to progress and it is hoped that the first meeting will be held in September 2023 by zoon. The Chair and Vice Chair will be invited to the meetings.

9. Date of next meeting
The meeting noted the date of the next meeting.

16. Actions to be taken forward.
The following actions are to be taken forward from the meetings held on 21st July 2023.

No	Item	By
1	Prepare minutes and issue after approval by chair and vice chair	Secretary
2	Add items to executive agenda for September: i) A55 discussions in preparation to meet minister's office. ii) Fees and meetings.	Executive
3	Email survey to be completed (see annual meeting)	Secretary
4	Audit of annual accounts	Secretary
5	Issue presentation slides on smart towns	Secretary
6	Youth Forum to be set up for September	Secretary
7	Complete rail surveys	All involved

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