

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



NORTH WALES & CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting of the North Wales Coast and Cambrian Lines Committee's

held on **Friday 12th January 2024 at 10.30am** at
By Zoom

1. Record of attendance

Those present were:

Cllr Ian Hodge (Chair)	Holywell Town Council
Gail Jones	Transport for Wales
Gwyn Rees	Transport for Wales/Network Rail
Thomas Johnson	Network Rail
Angus Eickhoff	SARPA
Ann Elias	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Vivienne Blondek	Buckley Town Council
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies	Flint Town Council
Ken Law	Welshpool Rail Users Facebook Group
Cllr Chris Lemon	Shrewsbury Town Council
Cllr Ann Lloyd Jones	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr Peter Morton	City of St Asaph Council
Cllr Mike Pearce	Llandudno Town Council
Geof Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council & SARPA
David Taylor	Rail Future
Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair Cambrian Lines Committee
Daryn Wilcox	Penmaemawr Town Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary & Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Apologies for absence received from:

Cllr Jeremy Barnes	Carno Station Action Group
Cllr John Elison	Carno Station Action Group
Cllr Michael Williams	Machynlleth Town & Powys County Councils
Cllr Alum Willaims	Aberystwyth Town and Ceredigion Councils
Cllr Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Community Council
Cllr Andrew Wood	Conwy County Council

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2. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

To meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Actions since last meeting

The meeting noted the update on actions taken since the last meeting as follows:

No	Item	Status
1	Publish minutes on the website	Completed
2	Letter to TFW regarding support for toilet facilities at Prestatyn Station	Completed
3	TFW to confirm the details of the Cambrian Coast train service which is now to be 4 car units.	More details at this meeting
4	Report on disabled issues on the railway to be completed and circulated for comment before issue to TFW and Avanti.	Completed
5	Suggest to TFW that the class 197 trains being fitted out in South Wales that have been delayed by fitted out to address the complaints about these trains.	Completed
6	Complete surveys as follows: i) Cambrian Coast – Cllr Trevor Roberts ii) Cambrian Main – Robert Robinson iii) Shrewsbury-Chester – Robert Robinson and Cllr Vivienne Blondk. iv) North Coast group 1 – Cllr Ian Hodge and Cllr Norma Davies. v) North Coast group 2 – Cllr Helen Roberts and Cllr Alyn Ashworth	Completed
7	Complete disability report for circulation	Completed
8	Seek to have more class 197 trains fitted with ERTMS	Completed
9	Gain clarification as to what happened at the meetings regarding the Welshpool footbridge.	Completed – report at meeting
10	Contact TFW regarding car park use and enforcement at various stations along all lines.	Completed
11	Raise issue of guard announcements on trains with TFW	Completed

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12	Involve Welsh Government with the relevant issues raised by the members	Ongoing
13	Buses – issues over consultation and late changes announcements – consideration after more information and to be on next agenda	Ongoing

5. Reports from rail companies

The following items were discussed under each heading.

i) Transport for Wales

The following was discussed with TFW at the meeting:

- a) The issue of lack of staff on Shrewsbury Station when things are not going well was noted.
- b) Maybe consideration can be given to better electronic information displays which give local information as well as timetables of trains and buses (Welshpool bus station has these).
- c) Pocket timetables are being produced for the Wrexham/Bidston line. The members were keen to have pocket timetables on the Cambrian and North Coast lines. It was pointed out that colour scheme are important for those who are visually impaired.
- d) There is to be a general Wales liaison committee meeting soon, dates will be issued (likely to be the end of February).

ii) Network Rail

A representative of Network Rail was present to take any issues away.

- a) The Shrewsbury changes to aid the Cambrian Line hourly service and the Holyhead service was raised. This may not be Network Rail but they are now aware of it.
- b) The meeting noted the 10 year Shropshire Council Plan for Shrewsbury that includes:
 - i) A bus station on the station forecourt – not supported by the meeting.
 - ii) Footpath between the station to Abbey Foregate and the College should be retained.
 - iii) Passenger information boards are still inadequate and do not give correct and insufficient information. TFW is the operator of these now – the system is old and is recognised not to work well.
 - iv) The idea of Cambrian line trains by hourly to Birmingham and by hourly to Crewe has not been taken forward.

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- continued
- v) The idea of 8 cars from Birmingham splitting at Shrewsbury for the Cambrian line and Holyhead line was considered impractical due to some stations (Wellington) not being able to take such trains.
 - vi) There is no further update on the electrification of the North Coast Line.

Future contact with Thomas can be via email
thomas.johnson@networkrail.co.uk

iii) Update Network Rail/Transport for Wales

- a) The 4 car unit now to run during the summer months on the Cambrian Coast is only one service each way (10.55 ex Mach and 1537 ex Pwhelli).
- b) It is hoped that the 4 car unit will offer better catering (presumably due to the trolley being able to get down the train with less overcrowding).
- c) A 197 will be stabled at Machynlleth soon so people can call and see it.
- d) December 2024 will see timetable changes – this will be consulted on soon.
- e) Marketing of the Cambrian Lines to be improved (although more people will not help the already overcrowded trains).
- f) TFW Loyalty scheme may be introduced giving discounts off local shops etc.
- g) Boarding issues with the new 197 (being above platform level) is being considered so that it meets standard.
- h) The issue of security guards on stations stopping people getting on overcrowded trains is causing issues and distress (particularly to women on their own which makes them feel unsafe to travel).

iv) Avanti trains

There was no report from Avanti.

6. Llandudno Summer Services

The subject of disruption to train services in the summer to Llandudno was raised. It appears there is no summer service from Llandudno Junction to Llandudno. This apparently is due to a level crossing issue at Deganwy. This is to be investigated more quickly and a result found.

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7. Welshpool Station footbridge

The footbridge has been gritted over the past few days by PCC, however there is no permanent solution in place.

A meeting with the parties is being held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 to try and resolve the situation. A report will be circulated on progress.

8. Bus travel

The meeting commented on the lack of timetables at bus stops.

The responsibility for putting up timetables is that of the County Councils.

The Secretary will write to Conway Council on the subject seeking an improvement.

9. Surveys

The off season surveys are to take place as follows:

Dates 15th and 16th February 2024

Route: Day one – Chester – Birmingham International – Chester

Route: Day two – Chester/Welshpool – Birmingham International –
Chester/Welshpool

The results of these surveys will be an addendum to the larger 2023 report. The content to be train type and carriages, number on the train at each station and notes of what happened of note on the route.

TFW has agreed to provide the tickets.

Gail Jones thanked the Association for its work with the surveys which have been invaluable.

9. Buses along North Wales Coast

The meeting noted that there are new bus timetables issued by Arriva. Members are encouraged to check before giving advice or travelling. This is due to the effects of the 20mph limit.

10. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the dates of the next meetings as follows:

North Wales Transport – Friday 10th May 2024 at 10.30am by zoom.

Cambrian Transport – Friday 17th May 2024 at 11.45am in Aberystwyth

North Wales/Cambrian Transport – Friday 12th July 2024 at 10.30am by Zoom

11. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward from the meeting.

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No	Activity	By
1	Minutes to be circulated and posted on the website at www.northwalesassociation.org.uk	Robert Robinson
2	Report on meetings with TFW/PCC/Welsh Government over footbridge at Welshpool	Robert Robinson
3	Pocket timetables for Cambrian Line and North Coast Lines to be taken forward considering colour schemes.	Gail Jones
4	Survey of Chester to Birmingham lines to be completed on 15 th and 16 th February.	Ian/Norma and Robert/Vivienne
5	Llandudno summer services to be investigated including the Deganwy crossing.	Robert Robinson
6	Letter to Shropshire Council about 10 year plan regarding the bus station and footpath.	Robert Robinson
7	Gain comment from TFW over information board issues.	Gail Jones