



SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

AGENDA
for a meeting of the
Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
to be held on Friday 12th November 2021 at 11.15am by Zoom

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies received.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held in July 2021

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting. (see attached)

4. Actions taken forward from last meeting

The meeting noted the list of actions to be taken forward and their status as follows:

No	Action	Status
1	Prepare and circulate minutes of the meeting.	Completed
2	Arrange Welsh Government Meeting regarding Network Rail matters.	Secretary
3	Continue to gain information required from TfW.	Still awaited
4	Obtain passenger seating comparison between 2018 and 2023 proposed timetable.	Nothing from TfW – worked it out ourselves
5	Add Borth station issues to Station Audit.	Completed
6	Continue with seeking a satisfactory response with regard to train formation issues.	Ongoing
7	Arrange for a funding report for the next meeting.	
8	Chase up response to station audits.	Completed
9	Chase up improvements to Welshpool Station.	No response
10	Welsh translation of Station Audit Reports.	No progress
11	Welshpool station bridge issues.	Ongoing

5. Report on matters since last meeting

To report on the following:

- a) Meeting with Russell George and CEO of Transport for Wales.
- b) Complaints by passengers regarding reliability on the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth line.
- c) Timetable meeting hosted by Transport for Wales.
- d) Delay in hourly train services.
- e) Train designs



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6. Rail reports

- 6.1 Report from Transport for Wales for this meeting.
- 6.2 Report from Network Rail for this meeting.
- 6.3 Train formations (see appendix B).
- 6.4 Update on Station Audits.
- 6.5 Welshpool Station improvements.

7. Carno Station re-opening

The meeting received an update on this subject.

It was noted that a decision was still awaited from Welsh Government.

8. Future of the Committee

To discuss the following:

a) Background

The Committee has been in existence for over 30 years and in the past few years (from 2008 to date) has been active in promoting and gaining results for both the main line and the coast line. An equal amount of time is allotted to both the main and coast lines by the Committee and the Secretary. From this background the Executive Officers feel that a discussion should take place regarding the future remit of the group.

b) The Committee remit for the future

The Liaison Committee is asked to consider the various options into the future as follows:

i) **Change the name of the Committee to reflect the work that it does.**

The name would reflect the work done for all the Cambrian Lines.

ii) **Combine both the SALC and the Coast Committees.**

As the work of both committees is similar to combine both into one group which would allow more co-ordination between the lines.

iii) **Stay as we are but with more focus on the main line and coast line matters taking a lesser role.**

The meeting would spend time on main line matters with coast line activities being peripheral to the main subjects.

iv) **To retain SARLC but to deal with main line matters only.**

To confirm the remit of the committee to deal with main line matters only.

c) The name of the Committee to reflect its work

To consider the name of the committee once a decision on the above has been taken at the February meeting. This will give time for members to consider the above.



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d) Matters to consider

Some thoughts to consider when discussing the above:

- a) What is best for two lines – leaving personalities out of it?
- b) Are we stronger together?
- c) Location of meetings to suit attendees?
- d) Co-ordination of activities?
- e) Ensuring decisions or discussions are not in conflict with each other?
- f) Time saving for people in both Committees?

9. Dates of meetings

To note the schedule for the quarterly 2022 meetings as set out below:

Friday 4th February 2022
Friday 20th May 2022
Friday 15th July 2022
Friday 14th October 2022

Meetings will be held in person at Machynlleth if possible otherwise by Zoom at 11.15am.



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MINUTES
of a meeting of the
Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
held on Friday 16th July 2021 at 11.15am by Zoom

Present were

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair
Cllr Jeremy Barnes	Carno Action Group
Cllr Richard Church	Welshpool Town Council
John Ellison	Carno Action Group
Ann Lloyd-Jones	Gwynedd Council
Cllr Ray Quant	Ceredigion Council
Cllr Peter Morton	North Coast Transport liaison Committee
Cllr Tony Parsons	Shropshire Council
Jeff Smith	SARPA
Cllr Alyn Williams	Ceredigion Council
Stuart Williams	Talylyn Railway (part)
Cllr Dylan Wilson-Lewis	Aberystwyth Town Council
Roger Woodhouse	Talylyn Railway
Robert Robinson	Secretary

Apologies received

Cllr Michael Williams Vice Chair, Cllr Eryl Jones- Williams, Cllr Mair Benjamin and Lowri Joyce.

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held in May 2021

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

3. Actions taken forward from last meeting

The meeting noted the list of actions to be taken forward and their status as follows:

Ref	Item	Status
1	Minutes of meeting to be posted on web site	Completed
2	Details of who is responsible for train formations	Still no response from TfW
3	Station Audit to be completed and circulated	Completed
4	Station Dementia Plan to be completed and circulated	Completed
5	Welsh Translation of Audits to be researched	Awaiting confirmation of a translator
6	Letter to Minister over the concerns about train formations	Completed, reply received.



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7	Seek solution to the footbridge at Welshpool and gritting in poor weather.	On-going
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Ref	Item	Status
8	Seek confirmation from Network Rail some detail on how the £3m signalling improvements to the Cambrian Line are made up. In particular the adding of software to new trains so that they can serve and back up the Cambrian Lines.	Still no response
9	Seek clarification on the programme for works at Machynlleth Station.	Completed
10	Seek clarification with Network Rail as to responsibility for indicator boards not on station platforms – chase up a response.	Still no response
11	Meeting on bus replacement timetabling to be held including the Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Cambrian Coast, Roger Whitehouse and the Secretary to be arranged by TfW.	Meeting held.
12	Meeting with Network Rail to be arranged.	Meeting held
13	Financing of the group into the future plan.	Plan in progress

10. Report on matters since last meeting

The meeting noted a short report on the All Wales Transport for Wales Liaison meeting with particular reference to:

Train design consultations

It has been noted that there has not been the consultation regarding the new trains that should have been done. There is some work to try and rectify this.

Through trains to Birmingham

It was confirmed again that there will be the retention of the existing direct trains to Birmingham International from the Cambrian Lines.

Issues short term with couplings

It was confirmed that the new trains do not couple up to the older trains. However, to help the introduction with little impact the new trains will be introduced line by line.

Short platform stopping trains

The issue of trains stopping (or not) at short platform stations was recognised and this issue is being addressed urgently.

Recognition

The TfW management accept that there is work to do regarding the Cambrian Line services before it is right when the new trains are introduced.

To meeting also noted the contents of two letters from Welsh Government regarding Cambrian Line rail services which confirmed (among other things) that the Cambrian Line



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Trains will be kept for that service (21 units). It appears that this means the existing route plan of Aberystwyth – Birmingham International – Holyhead.

11. Transport for Wales

There was no direct report from Transport for Wales for this meeting.

5.1 Details of decision makers on train designs.

The Secretary is still waiting details of the details of the person or persons who are the decision makers on train formations.

a. Train formation and design consultation

There are still issues around seating capacity and toilet provision. TfW has been asked to produce a chart of the seating on the 2018 services compared with the seating with the 2023 timetable. Currently it looks like the Coast Line will be at least 8% down. The meeting agreed this was totally unacceptable.

5.3 Welshpool bus replacement services

There are still issues around passengers not being able to find where the buses go from was a problem. It is too late for the recent bus replacement service but should be noted for the future.

b. Station Audit for Cambrian Lines

The Station and Dementia Audit for Cambrian Lines has been completed and issued to TfW. No reaction or contact about this other than confirming that it has been passed to the station improvements group.

The state of Borth Station is to be added to the Station Audit.

c. Welshpool Station proposals.

The report on station improvements for Welshpool has been submitted to TfW. No response to date. The meeting agreed that Welshpool Station is the worst on the Wales network considering the number of passengers that use this station.

12. Network Rail

Report from Network Rail – no report yet again.

The Secretary is now to approach Welsh Government to ensure that Network Rail does respond – in particular in relation to:

- i) How the £3m signalling budget on the Cambrian Lines has been spent.
- ii) Indicator boards required at Welshpool and Dovey Junction.

13. Carno Station re-opening



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The meeting received an update on this subject.

It was noted that a decision was still awaited from Welsh Government.

14. Date of next meeting

To note the date for the next meeting as set out below:

Friday 29th October 2021 at 11.15am

Meetings will be held in person if possible otherwise by Zoom.

15. Actions being taken forward

The actions to be taken forward are:

No	Action	By
1	Prepare and circulate minutes of the meeting.	Secretary
2	Arrange Welsh Government Meeting regarding Network Rail matters.	Secretary
3	Continue to gain information required from TfW.	Secretary
4	Obtain passenger seating comparison between 2018 and 2023 proposed timetable.	Secretary
5	Add Borth station issues to Station Audit.	Secretary
6	Continue with seeking a satisfactory response with regard to train formation issues.	Secretary
7	Arrange for a funding report for the next meeting.	Chair
8	Chase up response to station audits.	Secretary
9	Chase up improvements to Welshpool Station.	Secretary
10	Welsh translation of Station Audit Reports.	Secretary
11	Welshpool station bridge issues.	Secretary