

SARPA Meeting

Saturday 18th May Talyllyn Station, Tywyn

Present: Angus Eickoff, Philip Ellison, Roger Goodhew, A. Harvey, Sarah Harvey, Ivor Morris, Bill Redfern, Viv Skerm, Jeff Smith, Roger Whitehouse, Michael Williams

Apologies: James Davies, Carol Handcock, Robert Knight

Roger W welcomed members to Talyllyn.

Jeff introduced the meeting. The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April were reviewed. There was discussion about subscription to the Newsletter. New people are signing up to the Sarpa Facebook page but not to the Association. The minutes were accepted.

Roger Whitehouse said there should be notice on the web page indicating when the Newsletter will appear. Some members' e-mails are bouncing and he asked if Angus could send these people a message. Tony has spoken to them more than once on the phone. Angus said the names of these can go in the Newsletter. Sarah has found five addresses always fail.

Tony noted that the proposal of three Newsletters a year had not been accepted. It was moved, seconded and thereby agreed.

Angus reported that Russell George had accepted Sarpa's invitation to the meeting in Welshpool in August and a representative from Tfw will be coming to the July meeting in Newtown.

Officers' Reports:

Jeff reported that he had contacted Hugh Evans 3 times about performance and new trains. He had had no response in 2 months.

Tony referred to the Adopters meeting at which Hugh Evans had given a very full presentation and emphasised that Tfw want to involve everyone and listen to people's views. The Community Liaison Officer should be referred to.

2.

Roger W. had made 2 points in writing. He said that neither 21 units nor 18 diagrams are enough. Michael reported that a great deal of information was forthcoming at the Line Liaison Meeting.

Jeff and Roger G. had not received an invitation to this while Michael had. Robert Robinson chaired the meeting and Roger W advised that he be contacted about the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Line Liaison Committee. Roger G will communicate with the secretary of the Cambrian Coast Committee.

Only one Sarpa representative can vote and Jeff is the representative. He is automatically on the Committee.

Treasurer's Report:

The transfer of the banking is progressing. As of now the balances are:

Community Account:

£1028.48 est including Income £40.00. Liabilities £321.52

Savings Account:

£276.92

There are 44 paid up members (excluding electronic). We need to recruit more.

Angus reported that more people have joined Facebook. Bill said people should be able to use Paypal. Angus will refer this to James D. The minutes of meetings are on the website and Angus will add Line Liaison Minutes.

Next year's joint meeting is 8th May at 11.15 at Machynlleth Bowling Club.

3.

Roger G. reported on the Cotswold line AGM. Parkway Station Worcester is due to open later this year sponsored by the local authority. New trains are also expected in December. Roger told meeting that London Midland have 25 station adopters and usage is going up.

Roger W. reported problems on 2 days: one caused by signal failures; the second when services were running half an hour late for most of the afternoon on the Cambrian line.

Tony said that information was given in good faith that there would be 21 units with ETRMS in December.

Michael said members should refer problems to the Tfw representative attending the Sarpa meeting in July.

Publicity:

Re the logo competition Angus has given £100 which Sarpa will match plus donations from Jeff and Robert.

Design of Trains:

It was agreed that more space for bicycles and parcels is needed. Sarah has not succeeded in making contact with Disability Powys about access to toilets for passengers in wheelchairs/ motorised trikes.

Venue for Newtown Meeting:

As more space is needed if the meeting is advertised it was suggested it should be held at either the Methodist Hall or the Monty Club. Angus will decide according to the price of these.

It was agreed that the Network Rail representative should attend even though the meeting is "out of office hours". This is the purpose of the Liaison Officers Michael noted.

4.

Sarpa Archive:

Angus asked what to do with material. Tony will try and find out; he asked how much there is and what is it? Angus agreed to put it in order and Jeff said it is worth keeping.

Machynlleth Climate Action Group:

Angus said that Machynlleth Town Council have declared a Climate Emergency; Michael informed members that it is not affiliated to Extinction Rebellion but is stand-alone. There are sub-groups e.g. Energy, Food, Water, Recycling.

Shrewsbury and Shropshire have also declared a climate emergency.

Public Transport:

Angus said trains are set by Central government, buses by County Councils and local councils. Michael told members that buses run between Machynlleth and Aberystwyth every half hour. Angus suggested Machynlleth railway station for siting a bus station.

Tony informed the members of the plan to site Welshpool bus station near the Tourist Information Centre.

Michael asked about the scheme to phase out diesel and petrol vehicles by 2040 and Angus responded that it would not happen. It was mentioned that if their on-line survey is positive the County Council will have access to money for long stay car parks.

Angus said that the subject of free ticketing on buses has been raised.

Ivor informed members that buses will come in line with Tfw times.

5.

Communication:

Sarah read part of an e-mail from Peter Glyn Williams about the difficulty of hearing certain of the conductor's announcements on trains on the coast line. Ivor remarked that this varies in different parts of the train and depending on the ambient noise level. Bill advised telling the conductor if announcements cannot be heard. Angus thought the Welsh language should be used on trains. It is happening on some trains and Tfw are aware of the need.

Numbers of new trains and through running:

The Minutes of the Line Liaison Meeting were discussed. Jeff read the part about changing at Shrewsbury which Roger W. said is a breach of the franchise agreement. Roger G. pointed out that occasionally trains have to swap but Angus believed this happened too often. Jeff thought we could raise the matter with Hugh Evans. Roger W. said it is a symptom of the shortage of units. Bill added that this is ongoing. Roger W. asked if we should challenge trains being taken out of service for refurbishing. Ivor explained that the pressure is on to install tanks and alter the toilets by a certain time.

Tony related that from Robert Robinson's Minutes a full hourly service will be running at weekends in December 2019 and Roger W. referred to an increase from 1-3 in the winter due this September.

The age of trains will drop by 2023. Tony said that Tfw were emphatic that they want people to speak and seem sincere. Ivor added that Hugh Evans wants everyone involved; he is the interim station stakeholder.

6.

Correspondence:

Re the question of connections to Crewe raised by Patrick Adams Angus said that Sarpa should support improvements to North Western services and Tony that it is very difficult getting to Manchester Airport now.

Jeff referred to an inquiry from Thomas Wheeler about 158s; Bill suggested he should become a member of Sarpa.