

Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers' Association

Saturday 13th January 2024

Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool.

Present: Angus Eickhoff, Phillip Ellison, Roger Goodhew, Kevin Hardy, Sarah Harvey, Tony Harvey, Stephen Hughes, Kevin Hardy, Ken Law, Richard Newcombe, Bill Redfern, Cllr Jeff Smith, Thomas Wheeler^(r), Roger Whitehouse, Cllr Michael Williams^(r).

Apologies: Steve Boulding, Robert Knight, Dennis Onions.

Meeting was chaired by Angus Eickhoff.

Minutes of December meeting:

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted.

Matters arising: Angus reported that Robert Knight had booked the back room at the Wynstay Hotel for the next meeting. Angus will book the Monty Club at Newtown. Roger Whitehouse confirmed that the Slater Room, Talylyn Railway was booked for May. Bill reported that Peter Harlech Jones had booked the Memorial Hall Green Room Criccieth for October.

Officer's Reports:

The Chairman reported that he had not received anything from Gail Jones (TfW) regarding the matters we had raised.

From the Line Liaison committee it was reported that the integrated team (TfW + Network Rail) under Gwyn Rees seems to be working effectively. Gwyn has offered to speak to groups and Angus will invite him to the February meeting or the AGM. Jeff suggested sending him the full meeting list so he can choose. There is quite a bit of ongoing work including adapting platforms for level boarding.

The Treasurer reported that there are still ongoing compliance issues with Barclays bank. Jeff stated his new phone number. Some subscription renewals are coming in and there will be a reminder slip with the News letter.

Angus reported that the meeting list will be added to the web site. There is a lot on Facebook, particularly from Gareth.

Cambrian Lines News and Issues

Roger Whitehouse reported that the rail replacement bus timetable makes better connections however the information remains poor.

Jeff will contact Gail about the absence of the engineering works map.

Ken Law said that he had come across instances of no staff to provide assistance on Shrewsbury platform 3.

Angus reported (from the liaison meeting) that the public footpath along platform 3 at Shrewsbury is to be reopened. The plan to relocate Shrewsbury bus station to the Railway forecourt is being opposed, it will leave no room for parking. There will be 4 cars on the Coast Line for summer, but just 1 diagram. There will be a big timetable change in 2024 (December?). There is an aim to improve marketing of the Cambrian; which raised the comment have they got room for more passengers. Responsibility over Welshpool bridge remains controversial, Ken Law stated that there will be a meeting on Tuesday. Richard asked if there was scope for a volunteer group to look after the station. Angus said this was the station adopters, but not sure of the current status. Cllr Williams suggested that Andy King would be the best contact. Ken Law said that enforcement was necessary at Welshpool station car park with most spaces taken up by non-rail users. Jeff will raise this with Gail.

Roger Whitehouse stated that there are still far too many train cancellations.

Ken Law said that there was no help call point on Welshpool station. Roger Whitehouse said that an information screen at the start of the bridge would be usefull. Jeff will raise with Gail.