

Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers' Association

Tuesday 16th July 2024

19:00 Online

Present: Sarah Harvey^(r), Bill Redfern^(r), Cllr Jeff Smith^(r), Dave Taylor^(r), Roger Whitehouse^(r), Thomas Wheeler^(r), Cllr Michael Williams^(r), Peter Williams^(r).

Apologies: Dennis Bates, James Davies, Tony Harvey, Dennis Onions, Robert Knight.

There were insufficient members present (Quorum of 10 needed) to ratify the AGM decisions.

Chair's report:

The Chair reported that not a lot had been achieved this month. Questions have been sent to Gail Jones but no responses received.

There is another opportunity for town councils to respond to the TfW future timetable survey.

The Chair attended the Line Liaison meeting joint with North Wales, the North Wales element taking up some time. There will be new help points at Welshpool and a phone number for reporting issues with the bridge.

Pocket timetables.

Punctuality data for trains arriving within 3 minutes of timetable have improved from 75% to 93.8%.

There will be a 16 day blockade in March 2025.

A trial is taking place of request stop buttons at Tygroes, which is expected to provide benefits of improved time keeping and reduced fuel consumption.

There are additional guides particularly to help the disabled.

There is expected to be a new host for the Cambrian Rail Partnership now Claire Williams as left.

On the 8th August BTP (British Transport Police) will be offering free bike marking at Aberystwyth Station.

Minutes:

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted.

Future Timetables:

It was agreed that the remaining cuts proposed for the Cambrian Coast are concerning. It is planned to put out strong press release at an appropriate moment when the Senedd has stabilised. Encouraging individuals to write with their views to Welsh Government etc. Thomas stated that response to his letter was to ask permission to pass personal data to TfW. The Chair said that Welsh Government own the cuts.

Thomas asked if it was worth writing to James Price? It was thought to be worthwhile and also to some other Transport for Wales Board members.

Cambrian Lines News:

It was reported that a trial of one of the new 197 trains resulted in delays when it failed to transition into ERTMS on entering the Cambrian Line. A subsequent trial has shown that the new 197s can be operated under ERTMS with the existing 158s.

The 0645 train from Barmouth that is threatened with withdrawal was cancelled on 3 consecutive days. The Chair to write to TfW.