

Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers' Association

Saturday 14th June 2025

11:15 Welshpool Methodist Church.

Present: Dennis Bates^(r), Kate Day, Kait Duerden, Angus Eickhoff, Tony Harvey, Sarah Harvey, John Oates, Bill Redfern, Cllr Jeff Smith, Thomas Wheeler^(r), Roger Whitehouse, Steve Witherden MP.

Apologies: John Appleford, Barbara Fuller, Stephen Hughes, Dennis Onions.

Steve Witherden MP:

Steve Witherden MP, the Member of Parliament for Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr was welcomed to the meeting. A discussion took place.

Steve explained that he understood the need for good rail services. Because rail operation is devolved Westminster involvement is mostly infrastructure (Network Rail).

He had recently been at meeting with the Carno Station Action Group. SARPA's position that we support Carno Station reopening so long as it doesn't badly impact on the timetable. The problem is that this may be difficult to achieve without very high expenditure.

Jeff explained that one of SARPA's main concern was capacity. Steve said that he would try to help with obtaining clearance for 8 car use between Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. He will liaise with cross border MPs on this.

Angus raised that there is still no All Wales Travel Card. Jeff said that this must also include the borders.

Minutes of the May Meeting:

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted.

Ratification of AGM:

The meeting had 10 members present and it was agreed to ratify the decisions of the AGM held in May (See May Minutes) at a meeting that wasn't quorate.

Meeting with James Price:

It was agreed that the topics for the online meeting with James Price would be:

- 1) We are concerned about perceived service unreliability which is putting passengers off travelling. ("More trains than normal being repaired" is the most usual cause given, lack of staff is now unusual).
- 2) Last Winters timetable for the Cambrian Coast Line badly impacted users and businesses. (Was this understood and what are the future plans.)
- 3) Many trains have insufficient capacity (carriages)
- 4) We have long been promised but still do not have an all year hourly service on the Cambrian Main Line.

It was agreed that Barbara Fuller would be asked to set up a practice session.

Cambrian Lines News and Issues:

Kate Day raised the issue that occurred on the busy Bank Holiday weekend and the last up train failed, apparently due to lack of fuel, leaving many people struggling to get home from events including the Fairborne Railway Gala. It is said that no information was available when people tried to contact TfW. Kate will get greater clarification.