

Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers' Association

Saturday 18th May 2024

Talylyn Railway, Wharf Station, Tywyn.

Present: Dennis Bates^(R), Fiona Covington-Mann, James Davies, Angus Eickhoff, Barabera Fuller, Roger Goodhew, Chris Parrot, Cyng John Pugh, Bill Redfern, Cllr Meryl Roberts, Cllr Sarah Roberts, Shirley Sewell, Eamonn Sewell, Cllr Jeff Smith, Sarah Thomas, Thomas Wheeler^(R), Peter White, Roger Whitehouse, Sue Whitehouse, Cllr Michael Williams.

Apologies: Sarah Harvey, Stephen Hughes, Jim Honeybill, Robert Knight, Gareth Marston, Dennis Onions, David Purdon,

Roger Whitehouse welcomed us to the Talylyn. The Talylyn had provided refreshments for us. It was agreed to make a £10 donation to the Talylyn Railway (Covered by donations from Bill and Angus).

We were pleased to welcome delegates from the Tywyn Residents Group (opposed to rail cuts) and the Chair of Tywyn Town Council.

The meeting was mainly concerned with TfW's proposal for service cuts. It was therefore agreed to defer the AGM.

Minutes of 20th April 2024:

The minutes of the Borth meeting were accepted with the note that Robert Knights points from correspondence had been omitted. These were that the printers no-longer provided surplus copies such that we were short of those used for additional publicity, that we should consider the distribution of meetings.

Discussion on TfW's Future Timetable:

The Chair reported that he had submitted SARPA's response to the TfW survey.

It was agreed that the proposed cuts are damaging and far more serious than the delay to future enhancements.

Short summary of the points raised:

It is understood that Welsh Government ordered the cuts with no regard to policies (future generations, climate, Welsh language etc) except reducing costs.

The first service (0714 at Tywyn) was very unreliable last year.

People are now able to work from home, so do not have to move away, but need the first train to visit the office from time to time.

For south Merioneth Aberystwyth is an employment hub, but the early train is needed to access the opportunities.

With the diagrams (times) fixed there is no consultation.

Do TfW have a business plan? What's in it?

WAG tickets are thought to be a problem in the data. It is ageist to discriminate against services used by the elderly.

TfW should receive money for WAG tickets.

South Merioneth has a high proportion of people without access to cars.

A short survey of passengers using the 0714 at Tywyn found one person travelling to Amsterdam and one to Osaka Japan. Long distance and time critical journeys will not be possible without the early train.

Cinemas and other evening businesses will be affected by the cuts.

It was agreed that TfW/WAG have not taken into account the impact of the cuts on individuals and communities.

It was agreed that SARPA should ask for face to face meeting with TfW (James Price).