

## **Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers' Association**

### **AGM Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the White Lion Machynlleth**

**Present:** Denis Bates, Martin Bemment, Phil Ellison, Roger Goodhew, John Harken, Sarah Harvey, Tony Harvey, Robert Knight, Ivor Morris, Bill Redfern, Viv Skerm, Jeff Smith, Peter White, Michael Williams

**Apologies:** James Davies, Lowri Joyce, Thomas Wheeler, Richard White, Roger Whitehouse

Jeff opened the meeting by welcoming those present. A minute's silence was observed for A G D Swift of Welshpool who has passed away.

**Chairman's Report:** Jeff said it had been an interesting year. There had been problems and the group had been in contact with TfW. One issue was the uncertainty about the new units. To a certain extent we are in a similar situation to last year he said and must keep going.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill reported that the transition is now complete. There need to be more signatories on the cheques. James Davies is looking into Pay Pal so we can use it. Previously accounts were closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August but this year the date has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members and new members need encouraging. Bill was concerned that the amount in the bank is declining and this cannot go on. The Newsletter is the biggest single cost. Denis has succeeded in keeping the price down. We print more than we need for membership. We are not paying for venues at present so Bill exhorted attendees to make good use of these venues i.e. spend some money. He thought we should keep the membership fee at £10. We are committed to the logo competition and need cash for flyers. Bill suggested everyone attending recruit 2 new members.

Tony was pleased Bill had taken over the job. He asked what proportion of those paying were new members; Bill replied 50%.

Robert was asked if the Newsletters were being posted to the right people. Bill said he will circulate a list of extra addresses. Tony mentioned local groups being on-line and said it would save money to circulate to local newsletters and noticeboards. He continued that he would make his wife's contacts available to the group. Sarah pointed out that the Newsletter is a form of publicity that would be lost if it were all on-line. Jeff suggested creating a post of Publicity Officer. It was decided that this be discussed at a future meeting. Phil asked about the large increase in admin expenses which was explained as taxis for Sarah. The accounts were accepted. Angus proposed a vote of thanks for Bill and Sarah.

The current officers were re-elected en masse. Sarah referred to problems getting to and from winter evening meetings. Phil has offered to help by providing lifts. There was discussion about times of meetings. Angus thought a mix of daytime and nighttime is good. Times have been organised to suit Gareth and Roger Whitehouse. It was decided that the April Meeting should be at Tywyn and May at Aberystwyth.

Angus would like to ask Elwyn Vaughan (Plaid Cymru) to attend a meeting and referred to the link from Welshpool to Oswestry. There was some light-hearted debate about more schoolchildren leaving Wales. Ben Lake, the MP for Ceredigion, is another politician the group would like to attend. Michael said people of all political persuasions should be invited. The Tory candidate and the Lib Dem candidate for Powys were mentioned. Jeff said it would be good to have them prior to the general election. He also wants to invite representatives from TfW.

**End of AGM**

## **Proposed dates for Sarpa Meetings 2020**

**7<sup>th</sup> January Welshpool**

**4<sup>th</sup> February Caersws**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March Shrewsbury**

**4<sup>th</sup> April Tywyn**

**16<sup>th</sup> May Aberystwyth**

**6<sup>th</sup> June Machynlleth**

**7<sup>th</sup> July Newtown**

**4<sup>th</sup> August Welshpool**

**5<sup>th</sup> September Borth**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October Machynlleth AGM**

**10<sup>th</sup> November Newtown**

**5<sup>th</sup> December Aberystwyth**

## **Sarpa Meeting**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the white Lion, Machynlleth**

### **Immediately after the AGM**

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Jeff commented on the Borth Minutes asking that he be advised if he is absent from a meeting and needs to do something. It was pointed out that Page 3 para 3 should read Adopters'.

Tony referred to the problems for people catching replacement buses especially at Welshpool Station and Aberystwyth where notices are inside the station. He described a situation when the last train was cancelled and passengers almost missed the bus. Jeff suggested designated signposted rail replacement bus stops. As this subject is raised at every meeting Bill suggested that Jeff should write to TfW about it. Michael thought there should be a list drawn up of questions to ask them. Phil told the meeting how things were done on the Chiltern Line.

Angus advocated inviting Russell George to attend a meeting. Russell G had said a politician can attend with a representative of TfW Rail Services but Tony and Bill both thought it was not a good idea as having them at the same time may make them less open.

**Correspondence:** Angus had received an article from the Guardian. Lowri Joyce had sent notice of closures Barmouth- Pwllheli (Oct/Nov) and Machynlleth- Aberystwyth (Nov).

Jeff announced that £184 million has been allocated to stations managed by TfW including the valleys and the borders. He would like a breakdown of how this will be spent. SARPA is aware that Machynlleth station will be upgraded.

**Publicity:** Angus reported that Ian Savage of NPTC would like an idea of what is wanted re the SARPA logo. Robert suggested a wheel, Jeff an image of Lloyds coaches (ha ha). The meeting agreed it should

represent the voice of the Passenger. “Your Voice”. Tony thought the designers should know what it will be used for e.g. promotion and advertising. Angus suggested asking Lowri, Bill that Claire Williams would be good. It was agreed that Angus, Ian Savage and one committee member should act as judges.

**Integrated Public Transport:** Jeff noted SARPA’s constant campaigning for integrated transport and good connections with bus services. He told the meeting that the Welsh government have published an agenda for improvements on the line with regional hubs viz: Carmarthen, Neath and Shrewsbury. Michael said there are plans for a hub at Machynlleth station. He referred to a stakeholders’ meeting and said £350,00 has been agreed. Bill said SARPA’s response should be that mid-Wales has been missed out and hubs should be at Aberystwyth, Machynlleth and Newtown.

**Performance on the Cambrian:** Jeff talked about the flooding that had closed the line the previous week and suggested that we ask for an engineering solution to the Black Bridge problem. Tony mentioned Gareth’s TfW report.

**New trains:** Angus said we need more than 2 carriages. Jeff wished to postpone this discussion until the next meeting where TfW officers will be present. Angus also favours retention of 158s.

**Archive:** Angus asked what to do with it. Jeff responded that the National Library needs information as to how many documents there are, what they are and the dates.

The meeting concluded at 3.45 approx.