



MINUTES

of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on
 Friday 22nd April 2016 at 10.30am
 at the Royal Oak The Cross Welshpool

The record of attendance is:

Council	Present	Apologies
Officers	Cllr Eve Butler (Chair) Cllr B C Roberts (Vice Chair) Robert Robinson (Secretary & Treasurer)	Cllr Joan Butterfield (President)
ABERGELE TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr John A MacLennan Cllr R Waters
ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL	R Hampson Jones	Cllr J Holiday Cllr J Norwood Cllr J Taylor
BANGOR CITY COUNCIL	I Jones Town Clerk	Cllr Derek Hainge
BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Cllr C R Williams	
BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Mrs H Meredith Cllr Lindsay Griffiths	Tina Earley Clerk
BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr A Woolley	Cllr J Woolley Cllr A Williams
CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr J Webb
CAIA PARK COMMUNITY CONCIL		
CONNAH'S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr R Hill Cllr C Grainger S Goodrum (Clerk)	Cllr P Attridge
CONWY TOWN COUNCIL		
DENBIGH TOWN COUNCIL		
FLINT TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Terry Renshaw	Cllr L Jones Cllr David Cox A Loveridge Town Clerk

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL		
HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL		C Pierce Clerk Cllr Karin Davies Cllr P York Cllr P Curtis
LANYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL	Cllr F Buckingham	
LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL		Viki Griffiths Clerk
LLANDUDNO TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr B Bertola	Cllr T Davies
LLANASA TOWN COUNCIL		
LLANFAIRFECHAN TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr C Gell
LLANDRINO & ARDLEEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL		C Davies (Clerk)
LLANGOLLEN TOWN COUNCIL		
MEINAI BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL		
PENMAENMAWR TOWN COUNCIL		
PRESTATYN TOWN COUNCIL		N Acott Clerk
RHUDDLAN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr M Kermode	
RHYL TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr A Jones Cllr J Chamberlain-Jones G Nickels Clerk
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr S Beach Cllr E Wynne	
SHOTTON TOWN COUNCIL		
ST ASAPH CITY COUNCIL		
TOWYN AND KINMELL BAY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr B McLaughlin	Cllr M Roberts
WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Ann Holloway Cllr Hazel Evans Cllr Estelle Bleivas	

1. Record of attendance

The record of attendance and list of apologies is as above.

2. Welcome by the Mayor of Welshpool

The meeting received a welcome from the Mayor of Welshpool Cllr Malcolm Douglass.

3. Notice of the meeting

The meeting received the notice of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

5. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting considered the actions taken since the last quarterly meeting as follows:

5.1 Meeting with the Minister

The meeting received a report on a letter to the Minister expressing grave concern that the Association's views which represented 36 councils, was not considered a high enough number of responses and to further request a meeting with the Minister. The Ministers Office may be willing to meet after the elections. The Secretary will follow this up.

5.2 Speaker for Annual Meeting

The meeting considered a speaker for the annual meeting and after discussion it was **AGREED** that Dr Fish of the Health Collaborative be invited to attend. Her remit covers both the Powys Teaching Health Board and part of the Betsw Cadwallader Trust.

5.3 Consultations

The meeting noted that the consultations were presented to the Welsh Government as follows:

Rail Franchise Consultation
Local Government (Wales) Bill Consultation

The meeting also considered a request from Conwy Town Council to support their letter submitted to the Welsh Government on the Rail Consultation. As the letter (which the Secretary understood had been circulated by the Clerk to Bay of Colwyn Town Council) had not been received by those present it was agreed that the matter be deferred until the letter can be made available.

6. Financial Report

The meeting considered the financial report from the secretary. The annual accounts have now been prepared showing just over £1,000 excess of income over expenditure. The auditor will receive the papers in the next week or so. The meeting thanked the Secretary for his work on the finances.

7. Executive

The meeting received the minutes of the last meeting.

8. Local Government Re-organisation

The meeting received an update and in particular a report from the Welsh Government meeting held in Llandudno on the subject.

9. Boundary Commission for Wales (Local Government (Wales) Bill)

The meeting considered a report on a meeting between the Boundary Commission, the Cllr E Butler, Cllr B Roberts and Robert Robinson Secretary.

The Boundary Commission is open to suggestions as to how the work on combining Councils should be completed.

After discussion around the likely methods to be used to assess new boundaries it was **AGREED** that the following actions would be taken forward:

- 1) The Secretary will prepare a paper setting out the issues which the Commission should take into account when looking at Town and Community Council boundaries.
- 2) Any members who wish to add comments should pass them to the Secretary.

10. Understanding the powers and duties of the County and Town Councils

The meeting consider the Powers and Duties of both Principle and Local Councils. Consideration was also given to those services which the County Council do not have to continue supplying.

The meeting considered how this affects the decision making of Local Councils with regard to the protection of public services.

11. Understanding how the County Finances work

To aid information on why budget cuts are taking such an effect the information on how the County Council finances work was presented.

12. Montgomeryshire Canal re-opening Plans

The meeting received an update on the re-opening of the canal and proposals to take the project forward. This would link Llangollen with Welshpool.

The Welshpool Mayor has worked with local groups to take forward local projects on the canal.

13. Policing issues in Mid and North Wales

The meeting shared knowledge on crime and antisocial behaviour in each area and how the police go about delivery of their services within both Mid and North Wales. There are initiatives in Welshpool and Rhyl and an officer from the Rhyl Police is to be invited to the October meeting of the Association to see how their one is progressing.

There is a clear division between the way Policing is completed in North and Mid Wales.

The main differences revolve around the activities of PCSO's.

14. Health Studies

The meeting received a report on progress with:

The North Wales Health Study

Ian Jones reported on progress with the North Wales Study.
The main points made were:

- i) Ian Jones is in contact with Betsi Cadwaladr.
- ii) An engagement strategy and development plan is being prepared.
- iii) An involvement web site is being prepared.
- iv) Could be beneficial for someone from the Trust to meet the Association at one of its quarterly meetings.

The Mid Wales Health Study

The secretary reported on progress with the North Wales Study.
The main points made were:

- i) A Mid Wales Collaborative has been set up.
- ii) To date no movement on delivery.
- iii) A public meeting was held with little response due to poor marketing.
- iv) There are issues around what departments of the hospitals are called. le A and E may now be called an Emergency Care Centre.
- v) The Shrewsbury Telford Hospital Trust is now moving towards a consultation on the services delivered in Shropshire which may affect services to Mid Wales.

15. Wind Farms update

The meeting received an update on the following:

- i) The new regulations and approval process**
The Welsh Government now approves all strategic projects including large wind farms with the County Councils being a statutory consultee. The Town and Community Councils will need to look out for any consultations on this subject.
- ii) Subsidies and the future**
The Secretary explained the current situation on subsidies for wind farms. The House of Lords had rejected any change and the current Government has not brought any alternative forward. However there is a proposal to replace the subsidy with another form of payment.
- iii) Transportation and works taking place**
The Secretary reported on the wind farm transport due to start in Mid-July coming from the A55 direction and down the A458 before going through either Welshpool or Newtown.

16. A consultation example

The meeting received information on the Welshpool Public Services Consultation and their results. The question in the survey related to the cost of services if the Council took them over with regard to the Council Tax. The results were very clear, the electorate were prepared to pay more to keep services.
The booklets and results were made available to members to take away.

17. Service Delivery

The meeting received a report to compare the various County Council approaches to funding of service delivery.

There were mixed approaches by County Councils to the transfer of services.

Some were offering financial support while others were offering no financial support at all.

18. Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Language

The meeting consider the letter regarding the Welsh Language and Gwynedd County Council. The general view of the meeting is that communication should be the one that is appropriate to the situation. Also that if the Council is giving grant aid they should be able to ask for such translation services as part of that.

The meeting **AGREED** to receive the letter with no further action taken.

19. Welshpool Town Council

Cllr B Bertola thanked Welshpool Town Council for its services to the Association and the administrative support given on behalf of the meeting.

20. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the dates of the next meeting as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

15th July 2016 (annual meeting) at Connah's Quay Civic Halls at 10.30am

Executive Meetings

10th June 2016 at 10.30am at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

21. Actions taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

- i) Speaker for annual meeting – an approach to be made to Dr Fish
- ii) Meeting with Local Government Ministers office to be pursued.
- iii) A paper is to be prepared on issues with regard to boundary changes for comment.
- iv) Invitations to speakers from Police (Rhyl anti-social behaviour) and a representative from the Betsi Cadwaladr Trust.