



MINUTES

of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on
Friday 17th January 2020 at 10.30am
at The Pavilion Theatre, Promenade, Rhyl.

Record of attendance:

The following is the recorded attendance list:

No	Representing	Present were	Apologies received
1	Officers	Cllr P Morton Chair Cllr J Butterfield President R A Robinson Secretary	
2	Abergele Town Council	Cllr B Roberts Cllr S Jones-Roberts Cllr R Waters	
3	Argoed Town Council	Cllr R Hampton Jones	
4	Bangor City Council	Cllr J Martin Cllr D Hainge	
5	Bagillt Community Council		
6	Bay of Colwyn Town Council	Cllr B Barton	Cllr H Meredith
7	Broughton and Bretton Community Council		
8	Buckley Town Council	Cllr A Woolley Cllr V Blondek	
9	Caerswys Town Council	Cllr L Edwards	
10	Caia Park Community Council		
11	Connah's Quay Town Council	S Goodrum Cllr E Faulkner Cllr P Davies Cllr G Faulkner	
12	Conwy Town Council	Cllr H Roberts	Cllr N Flint
13	Denbigh Town Council		
14	Flint Town Council	Cllr S License	
15	Hawarden Community Council		
16	Holywell Town Council	Cllr P York J Baker Cllr K Davies	



17	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council		Cllr V Griffiths
18	Llandudno Town Council	Cllr B Bertola	
19	Llanasa Town Council		
20	Llanfairfechan Town Council		
21	Llandrinio and Arddleen Community Council		Carol Davies Clerk
22	Llandysilio Community Council		Cllr F Buckingham
23	Meinai Bridge Town Council	Cllr M Davies	
24	Penmaenmawr Town Council	Cllr M Baines Cllr M Hanks	
25	Prestatyn Town Council	Cllr B Murray N Acott	
26	Rhuddlan Town Council		Apologies – no one available
27	Rhyl Town Council	Cllr E Chard Cllr B Mellor G Nickels Town Clerk	Cllr A James
28	Ruthin Town Council	Cllr S Beach Cllr H Williams	Cllr Alsop Robson
29	Shotton Town Council		
30	St Asaph City Council	See Chair	
31	Towyn and Kinmell Bay Town Council	Cllr B McLoughlin Cllr M Jones	

1. Welcome by the Mayor of Rhyl

The meeting received a welcome from Cllr Ellie Chard Mayor of Rhyl Town Council

2. Housekeeping

The meeting noted the fire exits, toilets and any tests for the day.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

4. Elections

The meeting **APPROVED** the following recommendation from the Executive as follows:

Cllr Peter Morton to take over as Chair of the Association until July 2021.

The Post of Vice Chair be left vacant until the Annual Meeting when the usual election is to be held.



5. Secretariat

The meeting received an update on the Administration Management of the Association. An amount of £1,200 to be paid to the secretariat for expenses payable monthly.

Members were also invited to let the secretary have their email addresses (only if they wished to receive information via this method).

All information is posted on the web site at least 7 days before the meeting concerned.

All consultations are also posted on the agenda.

The meeting thanked the clerks from Holywell and Rhyl Town Councils for their help with the Secretarial matters between WTC Clerk resigning from the post and the reinstatement of the Secretary on an independent basis.

6. Minutes of the last Meeting

The meeting considered and **APPROVED** the minutes of the last quarterly meeting.

7. Actions from the last meeting

The meeting considered a report on actions to be taken forward from the last meeting:

Heading	Status
Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	Ongoing
Contact to be made with NALC and IESE to seek association membership	All that is on offer is a reduction in fees as a group to each member council – no further action is being taken.
Seek a North & Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government	A letter has been received but not what the Association is seeking. A further letter is to be sent seek regular visits to North Wales and for the Minister to meet the Association.
Executive to move forward, make the appointment of Secretary/Treasurer and change any policies accordingly	Completed
Business Rates and Council Tax to be a standard agenda item for the foreseeable future	A letter to be sent seeking both Parliament and Welsh Government timetables and ideas for review.



Report on wind and solar farms should be prepared for the next meeting.	This item was covered under the Wales Strategy on the agenda.
Letter to be sent from the Executive to Welshpool Town Council thanking them for their services to the Association	Completed.
The meeting requested a Transport for Wales representative attend a future meeting	A Rail plan is included on agenda and appears later in these minutes.

8. Financial Report

The meeting considered an update on the finances of the Association. (see Appendix 1)

The meeting noted the current bank balance of £6,327.14.

The meeting noted the payment of fees due July 2019-2020 – notices issued with agenda.

8. Insurances

The meeting considered and **APPROVED** the implementation of third party liability insurance for the meetings held. The approx. cost is £80pa.

10. Executive Meeting Minutes

The meeting received the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 13th December 2019.

10. Homeless

The meeting considered and discussed at some length the issues.

The meeting also considered information from the Wales Sleeping Rough Audit including figures.

There was an extensive discussion around this subject again.

The areas of discussion included:

- i) The veterans and armed forces support.
- ii) Forms and support from the authorities
- iii) The problem is getting worse.
- iv) The statistics do not reflect what is happening locally.
- v) The relationship between homeless and mental health.
- vi) Broader issues around general care in the community.



It was **AGREED** to invite a representative from the Salvation Army to speak to the Association at a future meeting.

The meeting recognised the work of the Royal British Legion and SAFFA.

11. Council Tax

The meeting considered the paper attached to the agenda.

It was **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to both Parliament and the Welsh Government seeking their proposals being considered and a timescale for review.

12. Business Rates

The meeting considered the paper attached to the agenda.

It was **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to both Parliament and the Welsh Government seeking their proposals being considered and a timescale for review.

13. Public Conveniences

The meeting shared views on the risks related to the management of public conveniences in particular with regards to fire risk.

The following items were highlighted:

- i) Keeping enough in reserves for repairs.
- ii) Signage for wet floors and contact details if there are issues.
- iii) Rates are not payable but should be kept under review.
- iv) CAT schemes vary in each County area.
- v) Costs of running toilets and double taxation.

14. Hospital updates

To consider an update on the hospital services from:

North Wales

There was much discussion around NHS issues in North Wales hospitals. Subjects such as care, ambulance times etc. were included in the discussions. It was **AGREED** to invite a representative from Glan Clwyd Hospital to a future meeting.

Mid Wales

The meeting noted the issues with the Shrewsbury/Telford Hospital Trust which are being monitored.



15. Rail updates

The meeting considered an update on Transport for Wales and rail services in North and Mid Wales.

The meeting then considered and **APPROVED** the following recommendation from the Executive:

To set up a Rail Liaison Committee for the North Coast Lines.
Membership to be Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, Network Rail, British Transport Police, County Councils, Town and Community Councils, Rail Interest and Rail Passenger Association Groups.
Meetings quarterly.

This Committee would be similar to the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee (www.shrewsburyaberystwythrailway.org.uk)

Set up cost would be £275 and an annual budget of £160 would be required for hall hire and administration.

The Secretary is to seek approval from Welsh Government to setting up the Liaison Committee during his meeting in Cardiff on 4th February 2020.

16. Business Improvement Districts

The meeting considered the operation of Business Improvement Districts and the representation on them. It appears some schemes are working but many are not.

The meeting **AGREED** to invite a representative to speak to the meeting on such schemes.

There were some concerns over the County Council role in such schemes.

17. Consultations

The meeting noted the consultations posted on the web site as follows:

Health and Safety Statement
Constitution
Standing Orders



18. Local Government Elections (Wales) Bill

The meeting received an update on the visit by the Secretary to the Welsh Government Committee to consider evidence from the Association with the following points of note:

- i) 16/17 year olds are to receive the right to vote in local elections.
- ii) Overseas residents in Wales are to be included on the electoral rolls.
- iii) A central data base for electoral roles to be introduced by W.G.
- iv) The County Councils to be given the right to choose which voting system they wish to adopt and this can be reviewed every 10 years.
- v) The idea of the STV system is to be applied to Town and Community Councils.
- vi) A fixed term for local councils is to be introduced at 5 years.

It is understood that the County Councils are opposed to the STV system. They are being consulted shortly.

The secretary presented the case to Welsh Government based on the Associations views. One of these was the opposition to a STV system for any local council elections.

19.Clean Air Act (Wales)

The Secretary outlined the Clean Air Act proposals.

Concern was expressed over how this might affect rural areas where there is a limited number of options available to them.

A letter is to be sent to Welsh Government expressing this concern.

18.The Strategy for North and Mid Wales

The meeting received a short presentation at the meeting with the key points covered. The members will be asked if they wish to following up any particular part of the plan over the coming months. This presentation is to be posted on the web site. The meeting felt that Tourism should be given a high priority in any business plan.

19.Chairs announcement

The Chair Cllr P Morton presented a cake to celebrate the Presidents special birthday on 21st January 2020. All members had a piece of the cake during lunch.



20.Dates for future meetings

The meeting noted the dates for future meetings as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

17th January 2020	Rhyl Town Council
24 th April 2020	Llandudno Town Council
17 th July 2020	Connah’s Quay Town Council (Civic Halls)

Executive Meetings

13th March 2020 and 12th June 2020

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

All meetings commence at 10.30am

21.Actions to be taken forward

The following actions to be taken forward from the meeting are:

No	Heading	Action
	Minutes and information	The minutes and presentation to be posted on the web site.
	Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	On-going
	Seek a North & Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government	A letter has been received but not what the Association is seeking. A further letter is to be sent seek regular visits to North Wales and for the Minister to meet the Association.
	Business Rates and Council Tax to be a standard agenda item for the foreseeable future.	A letter to be sent seeking both Parliament and Welsh Government timetables and ideas for review.
	North Wales Cost Rail Liaison Committee	To clear the setting up of this Committee with Welsh Government.
	Speakers	To arrange speakers on the following subjects: i) Hospitals ii) Salvation Army (Homeless) iii) B.I.D. schemes
	Insurances	Arrange third party liability insurance for the meetings – approx. cost £80pa.
	Clean Air Act	Letter to be sent expressing concern over rural areas affected.



APPENDIX 1

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS								
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR TO 31.3.2020								
		APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
INCOME	Membership & Meals	256.00	16.00	0.00	96.00	194.00	96.00	100.00
	Interest							
	Debtors							
	Other							
	TOTAL	<u>256.00</u>	<u>16.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>96.00</u>	<u>194.00</u>	<u>96.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
COSTS	Meals	1030.16						
	Expenses							
	Administration							
	Bank charges							
	Gavel							
	Web hosting							
	Web site							
	Translation							
	Other							
	TOTAL	<u>1030.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	BALANCE	<u>-774.16</u>	<u>16.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>96.00</u>	<u>194.00</u>	<u>96.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
BANK	Start	6599.30	5825.14	5841.14	5841.14	5937.14	6131.14	6227.14
	End	5825.14	5841.14	5841.14	5937.14	6131.14	6227.14	6327.14
	Balance	774.16	-16.00	0.00	-96.00	-194.00	-96.00	-100.00