



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor ar Seilwaith y Rheilffyrdd a Gwella
Gwasanaethau i Deithwyr**

**The National Assembly for Wales
The Committee on Rail Infrastructure and Improved
Passenger Services**

**Dydd Mercher, 1 Chwefror 2006
Wednesday, 1 February 2006**

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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynddi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal, cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau o'r Cynulliad yn bresennol: Eleanor Burnham, Rosemary Butler, Lisa Francis, Elin Jones, John Marek, Carl Sargeant.

Gwasanaeth Pwyllgor: Chris Reading, Clerc; Sarah Bartlett, Dirprwy Glerc.

Assembly Members in attendance: Eleanor Burnham, Rosemary Butler, Lisa Francis, Elin Jones, John Marek, Carl Sargeant.

Committee Service: Chris Reading, Clerk; Sarah Bartlett, Deputy Clerk.

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 6.14 p.m.

The meeting began at 6.14 p.m.

Ethol Cadeirydd Election of Chair

Mr Reading: Welcome, everybody. I am hoping that this will not take too long. As this is the first meeting of the Committee on Rail Infrastructure and Improved Passenger Services, as the Clerk, it is my job to set the ball rolling by instigating the procedure for electing the Chair. This is the first item on the agenda. Welcome to Elin Jones, who is substituting for Janet Davies, and to the other members of the committee.

Can I have nominations for the position of Chair? You are allowed to nominate yourself and you can nominate another Member, but it obviously has to be someone who is a member of this committee. There is no need to second a nomination.

Lisa Francis: I would like to nominate John Marek as Chair.

Mr Reading: Are there any other nominations? I see that there are not. In that case, there is no need for a vote. I therefore declare that John Marek is elected as the Chair of the committee and I will hand over to him. Do you want to come to sit here?

John Marek: No, I am fine here, because it is going to be a quick meeting.

6.15 p.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau, Dirprwyon a Datgan Buddiannau Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

John Marek: First, I thank the committee. It is a task that I will try to carry out with due diligence. I aim to help committee members in their work, regardless of their party membership or any particular preferences that I may have. The Chair has to be impartial and I intend to be so.

6.16 p.m.

Ymgynghoriad Cyhoeddus Public Consultation

John Marek: We have one other item on the agenda.

Mr Reading: This item is to approve the consultation letter that has been sent out.

John Marek: We all have the letter before us. I have had a look at it and do not have any problems with it. Does any Member have a problem with the letter?

Lisa Francis: I am a bit concerned, looking at the list of consultees, that I cannot find a reference to the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers Association or to the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum.

John Marek: You are quite right, Lisa. There is a problem with the list. There are other people.

Eleanor Burnham: What about the Chester to Shrewsbury rail users?

John Marek: There are organisations such as the Shrewsbury to Chester Rail Users' Association, the Wrexham to Birkenhead North Rail Users' Association, and, on the north Wales line to Holyhead, the Chester and North Wales Rail Users' Association. I think that I belong to that, as do most of us who are from the north. There must be equivalent rail users' committees elsewhere in Wales and we should include them.

Rosemary Butler: Can I suggest that we include the Women's Institutes, the Townswomen's Guilds and Merched y Wawr?

John Marek: That is probably very wise.

Eleanor Burnham: In addition, if we are going to have the possibility of Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone—have you seen that, Carl, on WSMR?

John Marek: We will certainly write to them. What does WSMR stand for?

Eleanor Burnham: It stands for the Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway Company.

Mr Reading: This list was a starter. We obviously welcome Members' suggestions. Rather than have all the names now, perhaps I could consult your offices or you could send the suggestions for names to me via e-mail and we can then add them to the list. We have also asked other people for suggestions.

John Marek: Could we not agree that any Member who thinks of a body that ought to be written to should simply go to the clerk with that name?

Mr Reading: If you send me their names and addresses, I will add them to the list.

John Marek: Are Members happy with that?

Rosemary Butler: I have just one point, if I may, Chair. I see that you have Arriva Trains Wales on the list. I approached staff at the station at Newport to see whether I could put up a poster saying that we were having this committee, that I was to be a member of it and that, if people wanted to make any observations, they should let me know. However, Arriva refused to let me put that poster up.

John Marek: Perhaps the clerk could write in an official capacity.

Mr Reading: We have invited Arriva Trains Wales to appear at our next meeting on 15 February, so that is a matter that you may like to raise.

John Marek: The intention is simply to publicise the existence of this committee and inform

people that anyone who wants to send in evidence will be able to do so.

Lisa Francis: Is it worth including organisations such as the port authorities that may have connections with rail transport? I am thinking of Holyhead, Mostyn, Milford Haven and so on. They may have their own observations to contribute.

John Marek: Under what we have just agreed—if we have agreed it—we can do that. Let the clerk know the names and addresses.

Mr Reading: I have made a note of that. If you think of any others after the meeting—

John Marek: There are authorities at Holyhead, Fishguard—

Carl Sargeant: For clarity, the Chair said that we should just tell the clerk about any bodies that we feel it appropriate to write to. There is not an issue about any of these authorities.

John Marek: That is sensible. Is there anything else that you wish to bring forward, Chris? What about the date of the next meeting?

Mr Reading: There was one thing. Some Members attended an informal briefing session with Robin Shaw, the chief executive of Transport Wales. We have provisionally arranged a second briefing for the Members who could not attend the first one. However, we understand that, of the Members who could not attend the first session, some are having difficulties with the second date. Is it worth proceeding with that or would you be happy to have a note on the briefing session that we have already had?

Eleanor Burnham: Could we have a note anyway, even if we attended the session?

Mr Reading: Yes, you will have a note anyway. Perhaps it is best to wait until you have seen the note to see whether you are happy with it, or whether you want another session.

Lisa Francis: I am happy to have a note.

John Marek: Are Members content to have a note? I see that they are.

Mr Reading: If you have any questions, give them to me and I will get the answers from Robin Shaw.

6.20 p.m.

Unrhyw Fusnes Arall Any Other Business

John Marek: Is there any other business?

Rosemary Butler: Do we get uniforms? What about flags? [*Laughter.*]

John Marek: We will be supplied with peaked caps. [*Laughter.*]

Thank you very much for attending the meeting.

Lisa Francis: It is a minor point, Chair, but so that I do not have to keep mentioning it at every meeting, I will say that this is the first committee meeting of this nature that I have attended and, under declarations of interest, I am a non-remunerated director of the Mid

Wales Tourism Company.

John Marek: Perhaps Members should just think that through, and I include myself in that.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.21 p.m.
The meeting ended at 6.21 p.m.