

**Minutes of the Wales Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am**  
**Forge Fach Community Centre, Clydach, Swansea**

**Present:**

Phill Taylor – AMVYCP  
Ceri Rees – Pembrokeshire County Council  
Janine David – Neath Port Talbot CT  
Barry Jones – Phoenix CT  
Megan Rosser Davies – Torfaen Community Transport  
Graham Cartwright – Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Richard Cope – Monmouthshire County Council  
Sarah Leyland Jones - PAVO

**In attendance from CTA:** Betsan Caldwell, Kerry Lane, Alice Tolley and Lindsay Adams-Jones

**Apologies:** Sue Reed (NPTCBC), Gareth Evans (Caerphilly CBC), Dave Brown (Llanwrtyd Wells), Pat Bowen (ACT), Jason Edwards (CTA Wales)

**1 Welcome and Introductions.**

Sarah Leyland-Jones, as outgoing Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2 Election of 2010-11 Officials**

The election of officials for the 2010-11 Committee took place, and Sarah Leyland Jones of PAVO was re-elected as Chair, with Sue Reed of NPTCBC and Richard Cope of Monmouthshire County Council elected as joint Vice-Chairs.

**3 Role of members of CTA Wales Committee**

The Chair asked committee members to read through the role profile of a committee member, to ensure that they were familiar with the duties, and asked whether anyone had any comments or queries. None were raised by members, but the Director raised the issue of CTA having difficulty in getting responses to consultations from members. She suggested that one option might be to create a small sub-group of interested members who would help CTA to draft responses, which would then be circulated to all members for final comment.

**Action: Betsan Caldwell to e-mail committee members to create a small sub group.**

#### **4 Minutes of 13 July meeting and matters arising**

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record and all matters arising had been dealt with or were covered in the agenda.

#### **5 Key Projects update**

##### **5.1 Feedback on 2010 conference**

The Projects Officer reported that CTA Wales had had the highest number of delegates ever at the 2010 conference, together with the highest number of feedback forms which had given very positive comments. All presentations and pictures of the events are on the CTA website. A discussion arose about the venue for the 2011 conference and members suggested it should be held in Mid Wales again.

##### **5.2 Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative (CTCFI)**

The Director reported that she was still awaiting a decision from the Minister on any changes to the criteria.

##### **5.3 Training and Events**

The Projects Officer give an overview of training courses held since June 2010, with 53 delegates having attended various events. The next training course was on 11<sup>th</sup> January with Dr Chris Endacott, who had spoken at the CTA conference, leading a seminar on "Saving Money Through Carbon Reduction". She urged members to attend and to promote this course to others in their area.

##### **5.4 Strategic Regeneration Area funding bids**

The Director reported that CTA is working to re-submit the Heads of the Valleys bid before Christmas, due to the change in type and availability of funding. The new bid is based on software and vehicles due to the revised requirement by officials for an 80/20 capital/revenue split.

##### **5.5 Deep Rural Areas**

The "One Wales" coalition document includes a pledge that the Welsh Assembly Government would provide greater support to communities in rural areas, and a report was commissioned from the Wales Rural Observatory challenges arising from day-to-day life in rural areas, which included access and transport issues. CTA Wales had been asked by WAG to undertake further work on CT and integrated transport in 4 pilot areas, which will need to be completed by March 2011.

##### **5.6 Non Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT)**

The Director represents CTA Wales on the WAG's National Programme Board which was set up following the launch of the Griffiths Review in 2010. The Board is reviewing progress with four NEPT pilots in Cardiff and the Vale, Cwm Taf, Hywel

Dda and Betsi Cadwaladr Health Boards. There have been some issues in each of the areas with engagement with the third sector, and although some of these are being resolved, there are still some remaining issues. The Director reported that she would continue to raise these issues at each board.

## **5.7 WAG Elections**

The Director has met with the Policy Lead in Welsh Conservatives, Welsh Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru to discuss the inclusion of accessible community transport within emerging manifestos, prior to the 2011 elections.

Plaid Cymru have just launched a consultation document called "Time to Transform" which discusses regeneration in Wales, but there is no mention of CT or accessible transport and CTA will be submitting comments. Welsh Conservatives were interested in looking further at the use of concessionary fares on CT.

## **5.8 Access 11 and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Access 11 will be held in Manchester Central on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March with the awards dinner being the centre piece of the event on the 15th. All booking information is now on the website. Members were encouraged to attend, and asked whether they had any memorabilia from the last 25 years which could be featured.

## **6 Future funding constraints and implications for CT**

The draft Assembly budget has been published, with budget reductions over the next 3 years seemingly at a lesser rate than originally envisaged. However, it will be some time before we know what, if any, implications there will be to Local Authority budgets, to the Local Transport Services Grant (LTSG), and indeed to CTA's own funding.

## **7 Information Exchange**

### **7.1 Committee Members**

#### **7.1.1 Phill Taylor**

Aberfan and Merthyr Vale were diversifying their services to include hospital and NEPT contracts. It was hoped traditional CT services would progress via CTA's Heads of the Valleys bid if successful, but the scheme was hoping to establish Section 22 services to alleviate issues with their existing service.

#### **7.1.2 Ceri Rees**

Michael Bunney has recently left the Pembrokeshire Association of CT Organisations (PACTO) and Debbie Johnson is due back from maternity leave in March. Pembrokeshire County Council had submitted a Rural Development Plan bid for a Rural Transport Hubs project, and they are hoping to hear back over the next few weeks. The South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH)

has commissioned consultants to undertake a household survey which is part of the monitoring of the Regional Transport Plan.

#### 7.1.3 Janine David

The new Neath Dial-a-Ride Town Rider service is continuing to grow and will move over to a section 22 operation shortly. Also a new driver has been employed for CTCFI.

#### 7.1.4 Barry Jones

Phoenix CT is looking for additional premises, and is currently in discussion with the Local Authority. They are scoping provision of services delivered under section 22 permits and currently looking at figures to establish if a sustainable service could be established to meet likely demand.

#### 7.1.5 Megan Rosser Davies

Torfaen CT received a new bus in October via the SEWTA Regional Transport Plan funding, and also celebrated their 25 years anniversary in September. The Local Authority has asked them to look at how they could cut their budget by 2-5% for the forthcoming year .

#### 7.1.6 Graham Cartwright

Greenlinks service development was progressing in accordance with targets. However, the scheme was experiencing difficulty in recruiting volunteers and is also being hampered by red tape.

#### 7.1.7 Richard Cope

Due to the SEWTA CT Capital Enhancement Scheme fund being oversubscribed, additional slippage funding was secured and has now been fully allocated. The SEWTA bus group met last week and discussed future funding and have decided to allocate similar indicative amounts for the 2011-12 financial year, but this would be dependant on the final SEWTA budget from WAG

Grass Routes have just acquired 2 new vehicles and have expanded the scheme with a further 3 routes.

#### 7.1.8 Sarah Leyland Jones

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) is currently renegotiating the Service Level Agreement with the Local Health Board and the Local Authority. There will be a 12 month transitional period which will incorporate a brief for how PAVO can further develop CT in the area.

Powys have done a joint procurement exercise with the LHB with respect to NEPT and special educational needs. Special Educational Needs (SEN) tenders are coming out in January.

PAVO are having talks with the Wales Ambulance Services Trust (WAST) regarding D1 training to see where PAVO can help.

## **7.2 Staff Reports**

The Director reported on a meeting with the Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales (CREW) and that there were plans to run a joint seminar during 2011 on the role of transport in regeneration. In response to a question, she noted that a meeting held with Time Banking to look at volunteering incentives had not been particularly fruitful. She also reported that Shop Mobility Wales would come under the umbrella of CTA Wales from 1 January for a trial period until the end of March 2011.

## **8 Any Other Business**

The Director asked the committee to forward any articles ASAP for the Christmas newsletter. She also announced that she would be leaving CTA at the end of March, a few months earlier than the end of her secondment which was due to end in September. The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for all her hard work over the previous years.

## **9 Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Forge Fach (This was subsequently revised to 23 March due to a clash with the referendum on Welsh Assembly Government powers on that date).