

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present : Cllr Brig. R Hall (Chairman), Cllr C Devine, Cllr P Davis, Cllr Mrs M Groom
Cllr N Martin, Cllr B Mattock, Cllr C Newbury, Cllr J Osborn, Cllr G Payne,
Cllr Mrs B Wayman, Cllr R Wright

36 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2012 were confirmed and signed.

37 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkins.

38 Members' Interests

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any interests which the Authority's Code of Conduct required to be disclosed, or dispensations granted by the Clerk to the Authority or the Ethics Committee.

39 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported on:

- His attendance at the Firefighters' Memorial Service in the City of London.
- The new season of "Safe Drive-Stay Alive" presentations which he urged those members who had not already attended to do so.
- The appointment of a new Fire Minister, Brendon Lewis MP.
- The Olympic Torch Relay.
- A meeting of SW Council Employers and the topics covered.

40 Programme & Scrutiny Board

(1) The report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 28 August 2012 was received.

(2) The Board's annual report for 2011/12 was received.

41 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17

On considering the report by the Brigade Manager Finance & ICT and taking into account current assumptions and significant issues arising since the last update,

Resolved:

To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17.

**42 Public Service Network and Security Policy Framework
Premises**

On considering a paper by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved :

To note the report and the project being undertaken to comply with HMG Security Policy Framework.

43 Asset Management Strategy 2013-2017

On considering a paper by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved:

To approve the Asset Management Strategy 2013-2017

44 Finance Review & Audit Committee

The minutes of the meetings of the Finance Review & Audit Committee held on 28 June 2012 and 11 September 2012 were received. It was noted that the Committee, at its meeting on 11 September 2012, had received the external auditor's unqualified report on the audit of the 2011/12 accounts. Noting also the projected year-end underspending on the revenue budget, Cllr Osborn expressed the thanks of Members to Phil Chow, Brigade Manager Finance & ICT and his team for such excellent financial results.

45 Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge

On receiving a presentation and a briefing paper by the Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved:

To note the process, objectives and composition of the Fire Peer Challenge which is planned to be undertaken in January 2013..

46 National Framework Document 2012

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer on the recently-published National Framework Document outlining the Government's expectations of Fire & Rescue Authorities in England,

Resolved:

To note the report.

47 Community Right to Challenge

On considering a paper by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved:

To note the report and to ask officers to prepare for the Authority's consideration a policy on how to respond to any 'community right to challenge' expressions of interest and enquiries.

48 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made.

49 Standards/Ethics Committee

(1) The Standards Committee's final annual report for 2011/12 was received.

(2) The minutes of the meeting of the Ethics Committee held on 3 September 2012 were received.

50 Members' Code of Conduct – Register of Interests

On considering recommendations of the Ethics Committee contained in a paper by the Monitoring Officer and the Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

To refer back the recommendations to the Ethics Committee with a request that the

Committee give further consideration to them in the light of comments sent to all members by Cllr Newbury.

51 Arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct

On considering recommendations of the Ethics Committee contained in a paper by the Monitoring Officer and the Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

To approve the arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and related documents as appended to the paper presented, subject to the deletion of references in the 'arrangements' to (i) panels and/or sub-groups of the Ethics Committee and (ii) action which may be taken where a complaint is upheld.

52 Revisions to other codes and protocols in the light of the Authority's Members' Code of Conduct.

On considering recommendations of the Ethics Committee contained in a paper by the Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

To approve the four revised codes and protocols appended to the paper presented, subject in the case of the code on gifts etc, to the threshold below which a member need not register the offer of a gift being amended to £25.

53 Members' Allowances

On considering a report by the Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

To approve a revised Scheme of Members' Allowances as set out in the appendix to the report with immediate effect.

54 Dates of Meetings for 2013

Members agreed the following dates for meetings of the Authority in 2013: 14 February, 30 May, 26 September and 12 December.

55 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public from the business specified in minute no.56 below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

56 Wiltshire Emergency Services Centre

On considering a report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Brigade Manager Finance & ICT, and Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

a) To note the report.

b) To approve the current Agreement regarding the occupation of the Wiltshire Emergency Services Control Centre being varied, and/or an Agreement or Agreements being entered into with Wiltshire Police Authority and/or the Great Western Ambulance Trust and/or its successor, on terms to be agreed by the Clerk to the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer, to provide for (i) the termination of the Trust's occupation of the Control Centre by 31 March 2013 on the basis set out in paragraph 9 of the report presented, and (ii) the continued use of the Control Centre by the remaining parties, subject to no additional running costs falling on this Authority.

(Duration of meeting 10.40 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.)