

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2010**

Present : Cllr Brig. R Hall (Chairman), Cllr P Davis, Cllr C Devine, Cllr Mrs M Groom, Cllr H Marshall, Cllr N Martin, Cllr D Montaut, Cllr J Osborn, Cllr G Payne, Cllr Mrs B Wayman, Cllr D Wren

49 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2010 were confirmed and signed.

50 Membership

The Clerk reported the appointment by Wiltshire Council of Cllr Mrs B Wayman as a member of the Authority to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr P Brown.

51 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Bawden and Cllr C Newbury.

52 Members' Interests

Cllr David Wren declared a personal interest in the business discussed under minute no. 66 by reason of his position as a Director of South West Fire Control Ltd. The Clerk to the Authority also declared an interest in the same item of business because of his position as Company Secretary of the Company, and in the business under minute no. 60 because one of the matters concerned the contractual arrangements for the services of a Clerk.

53 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported on:

- The recent announcement from the Government giving details of the Provisional Finance Settlement and Spending Review.
- The Government's recent announcement on the future of the standards regime in local government.
- The attendance of Cllr Bawden at the LGA Fire Commission on 10th December, which was addressed by the Fire Minister, Bob Neill MP
- The opening of the re-furbished Corsham Fire Station on 23rd November.
- The participation of Watch Manager Brian Morris in a feature on ice safety shown on BBC Breakfast

54 Programme & Scrutiny Board

The report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 17 November 2010 was received.

55 Provisional Financial Settlement and Spending Review

The Finance Director tabled a Schedule detailing the Government's provisional two year settlement for all Fire & Rescue Authorities. He and the Chief Fire Officer spoke about the potential financial difficulties facing the Authority.

It was noted that the Authority would receive a grant in 2011/12 equivalent to a 4.95% reduction on 2010/11, followed by an increase of 1.28% in 2012/13. Though considered to be better than expected, the current proposal would mean a reduction in grant of £474,000 in 2011/12.

Resolved:

a) Noting that the Government planned to reduce grant to Fire & Rescue Authorities by 25% over the next four years, to ask the Programme & Scrutiny Board to consider the mechanism for involving members in the preparation of a strategic plan for the four year period.

b) To note that budget proposals would be presented to members for discussion at the budget seminar to be held in January 2011.

56 Revised Capital Programme 2010/11

On considering a paper by the Finance Director

Resolved:

a) To approve the revised capital programme for 2010/11 of £3.235m, as presented.

b) To approve the revised prudential indicators consequent upon the change in the capital programme.

57 Finance Review & Audit Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Review & Audit Committee held on 14 September 2010 were received.

58 Members' Allowances

On considering a paper by the Clerk,

Resolved:

a) To amend the scheme of members' allowances with effect from 1st January 2011 by substituting a flat rate of 40 pence per mile for the current allowances payable to a member when using his/her own private car on Fire Authority business.

b) To review this decision after one year.

59 Health & Safety Annual Statement

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer

Resolved:

To note the report and to approve the policy statement for signature by the Chairman.

60 Staffing Committee

Summaries of the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 4 October 2010 and 8 November 2010 were received.

61 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made. This included an excerpt from BBC Breakfast featuring Watch Manager Brian Morris.

62 Appointment to Committees and Other Bodies

On considering a paper by the Clerk

Resolved:

To appoint Cllr Mrs B Wayman to the Standards Committee, the Rural Commission and the HR Learning and Development Workstream.

63 Indemnity Policy

On considering a paper by the Clerk

Resolved:

To approve a member of the Authority acting from time to time as an alternate director on South West Fire Control Limited and that this constitutes approval for the purpose of paragraph 2(ii) of the Authority's indemnity policy.

It was noted that Cllr Wren had appointed Cllr Marshall as his Alternate.

64 Dissolution of Regional Management Board

On considering a paper by the Clerk and Chief Fire Officer

Resolved:

- (a) *To agree to the dissolution of the Regional Management Board (RMB) on 31 March 2011.*
- (b) *In the event of the RMB being dissolved on the 31 March 2011, to agree to each relevant Lead Authority being indemnified against any liabilities which may arise from the current or former programme of collaboration under the aegis of the RMB which may come to light following the Board's dissolution subject to :*
- *all six FRAs in the South West agreeing to such indemnification and*
 - *the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Treasurer and the Clerk to the Authority agreeing the apportionment of any such liability falling to this Authority.*
- (c) *To note the re-establishment of the informal South West Fire Forum comprising Chairmen or portfolio holders of the six South West FRAs and the Chief Fire Officers.*
- (d) *To support the continuation of initiatives for collaborative work projects and to note that the governance arrangements for such projects enable each FRS to decide for itself whether it wishes to participate in a particular project.*

65 Regional Management Board (RMB)

The minutes of a meeting of the Regional Management Board held on 28 September 2010 were received.

66 South West Fire Control Limited

- (1) Summaries of the discussion and decisions at the meetings of the Board of Directors held on 1 October and 15th November 2010 were received.
- (2) The minutes of the AGM of the Company held on 15 November 2010 were received.

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 12.25 p.m.)

