

MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2011

Present : Cllr Brig. R Hall (Chairman), Cllr P Davis, Cllr Mrs M Groom
Cllr H Marshall, Cllr C Newbury, Cllr J Osborn, Cllr G Payne, Cllr G Perkins,
Cllr Mrs B Wayman, Cllr D Wren , Cllr R Wright

44 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2011 were confirmed and signed.

45 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Devine and N Martin

46 Members' Interests

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare personal or prejudicial interests, or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

47 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported on recent events which he or the Vice-Chairman had attended on behalf of the Authority including:

- **Medal Ceremony Evening.** The Chairman recorded the Authority's thanks to the Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, John Bush OBE, for having presented the awards in what was his final year as Lord Lieutenant.
- **Emergency Services Show.** The Chairman thanked staff of Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service for all their efforts in making this a very successful event.
- The Chairman reported on his attendance at the **All Party Parliamentary Fire Safety & Rescue Group** in London. He suggested he would not routinely attend the Group as, in his opinion, it was of limited advantage to the Authority to do so.
- **Firefighters' Memorial Service.** Cllr Wren reported on his attendance and that of the ACFO (Resources) at the Annual Firefighters' Memorial Service at which he had laid a wreath on behalf of the Service.
- The Chairman reminded members of the **Induction Day** to be held on 30th September.

48 Appointments Panel

Resolved:

To note formally the decision of the Appointments Panel on 9 June 2011 to appoint Simon Routh-Jones to the post of Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive.

49 Programme & Scrutiny Board

- (1) The report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 25 August 2011 was received
- (2) The Board's annual report for 2010/11 was received

50 Finance Review & Audit Committee

The minutes of the meetings of the Finance Review & Audit Committee held on 28 June 2011 and 13 September 2011 were received. It was noted that the Committee, at its meeting on 13 September 2011, had received the external auditor's unqualified report on

the audit of the 2010/11 accounts. Noting also the projected year-end underspending on the revenue budget, Cllr Osborn expressed the thanks of Members to Phil Chow, Finance Director, and his team for such excellent financial results.

51 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made. This included a feature on the Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) now installed in every fire appliance.

52 Staffing Committee

The minutes of the meetings of the Staffing Committee held on 25th May and 3 August 2011 were received.

53 Standards Committee

The Committee's annual report for 2010/11 was received. The Chairman thanked Mr Digby Barker, the Chairman of the Committee, for his work. Members noted there would be an opportunity to debate the future direction of the work of the Committee once the Localism Bill had been enacted.

54 Delegations to Committees

On considering a paper by the Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

To amend the powers delegated to the Appeal Committee to enable the Committee to hear and determine appeals by an employee against dismissal where employment has been terminated by the Staffing Committee.

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 Premises

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer, Finance Director and Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved :

a) To note the report.

b) To place on record the Authority's willingness to consider, on a without prejudice basis, any proposal to vary the basis of the Authority's occupation of the premises referred to in the paper presented which could be demonstrated to be in the interests of the Authority and of the wider emergency services community.

c) To note officers' intention to present a further report to a future meeting of the Authority.

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 11.55 a.m.)

