

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2011**

Present : Cllr Brig. R Hall (Chairman), Cllr P Davis, Cllr C Devine, Cllr Mrs M Groom, Cllr N Martin, Cllr C Newbury, Cllr J Osborn, Cllr G Payne, Cllr D Wren (up to and including the business under min.no. 68), Cllr R Wright

57 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2011 were confirmed and signed.

58 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Marshall and Cllr Mrs B Wayman.

59 Members' Interests

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

60 Chairman's Announcements

- The Chairman reported that Cllr Wren had on his behalf attended the October meeting of the LGA Fire Commission. Cllr Wren advised members of the subjects discussed at that time namely, the National Framework (consultation from 14 December 2011 to 19 March 2012), industrial relations and the Fire Service College.
- The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of the South West Fire Forum held in Dorset and that the next meeting on 26 March 2012 would be held at Wiltshire FRS HQ, Potterne when Mr Bob Neill MP, Fire Minister, would be attending.
- The Chairman and the Chief Fire Officer advised members of an approach made to the Service in respect of the possible use of a private helicopter to assist in major incidents/rope rescue etc.
- The Chairman reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the Fire Commission and the subjects discussed.

61 Programme & Scrutiny Board

The report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 15 November 2011 was received.

62 Mid-Term Review of Strategic Plan

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer on the Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan in the context of the current changing economic and fiscal climate,

Resolved:

To note the paper and to commend the Chief Fire Officer on the content and presentational style of the document presented.

63 Revised Capital Programme 2011/12

On considering a paper by the Finance Director,

Resolved:

a) To note and endorse the actions taken by officers in respect of the urgent capital works on station security referred to in the paper;

b) To approve the revised capital programme for 2011/12 of £2.908m, as presented.

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

64 Finance Review & Audit Committee

The Chairman of the Committee made a verbal report on the main items of business at the meeting of the Committee held on 13 December 2011. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting would be presented to the next meeting of the Authority.

The Finance Director was commended on the recent excellent annual audit report, especially against the backdrop of radical changes to the standards of reporting. Members noted that the Authority now complied with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

65 Members' Allowances

On considering a paper by the Clerk,

Resolved:

To amend the scheme of members' allowances with effect from 1st January 2012 by substituting an allowance of 45 pence per mile in place of the current allowance for members' use of their private cars for approved duties.

66 Health & Safety Annual Statement

On considering a paper by the Director of Human Resources, Learning & Development

Resolved:

To note the report and to approve the annual Health & Safety Policy Statement.

67 Appointments Panel

It was noted that, in accordance with the powers delegated to it, the Appointments Panel had appointed John Aldridge to the post of Deputy Chief Fire Officer with effect from 29 September 2011. The Chairman congratulated Mr Aldridge on his appointment.

68 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made. This included a feature on the effectiveness of sprinklers.

69 Localism Act 2011

On considering a paper by the Clerk and Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved:

To note the report and that officers will present papers to the Authority on specific provisions of the Act as and when appropriate.

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.)

