

WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY held at the Wiltshire FRS HQ, Manor House, Potterne, Devizes on Wednesday 9 DECEMBER 2015

Present: Cllrs C Devine (Chairman), E Clark, P Edge, Mrs M Groom, R Jones, J Knight, N Martin, G Payne, G Perkins, E Shaw, Mrs B Wayman

52 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Authority held on 12 October 2015 were confirmed and signed.

53 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Newbury and J Tray.

54 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 by the Ethics Committee.

55 Chairman's announcements

- i. The Chairman referred to reports in the national press regarding attacks on firefighters elsewhere in the UK and assured members that no such incidents had been reported in Wiltshire and Swindon.
- ii. Members were reminded of the carol service on 17 December, of ID photos for the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and of the visit to the control centre at the end of the meeting.
- iii. The Chairman informed members that the Service's Rural Fire Safety team had been shortlisted for the Fire magazine's excellence in fire and emergency awards. He congratulated the team on reaching the finals and was sorry they had not won an award,

56 Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

57 Programme and Scrutiny Board

The minutes of the meeting of the Programme and Scrutiny Board held on 19 November 2015 were received.

58 Finance Review and Audit Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Review and Audit Committee held on 8 December 2015 were received.

59 Revised Capital Programme 2015/16

On considering a paper by the Brigade Manager, Governance and Assurance recommending amendments to the capital programme due to, inter alia, changing priorities, slippage in timescales, and re-assessment of need,

Resolved:

a) *To approve the revised capital programme for 2015/16 of £3.728m as set out in Appendix A of the paper presented; and*

b) *To approve, as a consequence of (a) above, the revised prudential indicators as set out in Appendix C of the paper presented.*

60 Protection, prevention and operational delivery

A short visual presentation was made.

61 Firefighter Pension Scheme: Local Pensions Board

The minutes of meetings of the Pensions Board held on 3 September and 24 November 2015 were received. The Board's terms of reference as appended to the minutes of the latter meeting were noted. It was also noted that Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority would be required to establish a local pensions board in accordance with the relevant statutory regulations.

62 Business continuity review

On considering a paper by the Brigade Manager, People and Development providing a synopsis of a business continuity exercise undertaken by the Service earlier in the year,

Resolved:

a) *To note that, on the basis of the exercise, the Service believes its business continuity arrangements to be robust, and*

b) *To suggest that the outcome of future such exercises by the Service post-combination with Dorset should be subject to independent external scrutiny.*

63 Combination with Dorset: update report

A paper by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive was received.

64 Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority

The minutes of the meetings of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 23 October 2015 and of that Authority's Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 September and 5 November 2015 respectively, were received.

65 Dissolution of Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

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

Resolved:

a) *To note the paper and in particular that in accordance with the provisions of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Combination Scheme) Order 2015:*

- *this Authority will cease to exist after 31 March 2016 and will not have any residual functions,*
- *the statutory responsibility for fire and rescue services in the geographical area hitherto covered by this Authority will be assumed by Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (DWFRA) as from 1 April 2016,*
- *all employees in post on 31 March 2016 will be transferred to the employment of DWFRA, and*
- *all property, rights and liabilities held or incurred by this Authority will be transferred to DWFRA.*

- b) *To note that no formal decisions by this Authority are required to give effect to the above.*
- c) *To approve the following programme of meetings for the remainder of this Authority's existence, subject in the case of the Staffing, Ethics, and Finance Review and Audit Committees to meetings being held only if there is business to transact:*
- *21 January – Staffing Committee (provisional)*
 - *17 February – Ethics Committee (provisional)*
 - *3 March – Staffing Committee (provisional)*
 - *17 March – Finance Review and Audit Committee (provisional) (2 p.m.)*
 - *29 March – Programme and Scrutiny Board (10.a.m.)*
 - *31 March – full Authority (10.30 a.m.)*
- d) *To note that responsibility for approval of this Authority's accounts for the 2015/16 financial year will pass to DWFRA.*
- e) *To authorise the Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer and Acting Clerk severally to take such action as may be required which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the dissolution of the Authority.*

66 Commemorative events

On report by the Chairman regarding proposals to mark 68 years of the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (formerly known as the Wiltshire Fire Brigade),

Resolved:

- a) *In recognition of the Authority's gratitude to the staff of the Service, to approve expenditure not exceeding a total of £16,000 to enable staff at individual establishments or in individual departments to organise commemorative events.*
- b) *To note that a formal dinner event at an appropriate venue is planned for March, at no cost to the Authority.*

67 Urgent business

There was no urgent business.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 to 11.45 a.m.)