

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
held in the Oak Room, Headquarters, Shrewsbury
on Wednesday, 24 February 2016, at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Adams, Mrs Barrow, Carter (Vice-Chair), Hartin, Hurst-Knight, Dr Jones, Kiernan, Mason, Mellings, Price, Reynolds, Roberts, Turley, West (Chair) and Wynn

Officers

Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer, Head of Finance, Clerk to the Fire Authority, Corporate Support Manager and Executive Support Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Fletcher and Minnery.

Councillor Fletcher had advised that he would be leaving the Fire Authority due to work commitments. A letter of thanks will be sent to Councillor Fletcher from the Chair of the Fire Authority.

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The Chair reminded Members that they must not participate in the discussion of, or voting on any matter, in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

Councillors Carter, Hartin, Kiernan and Mellings declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in items 5 and 8 on the agenda, in that they were directors on the board of Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services Ltd. They had been granted a dispensation by the Fire Authority, which allowed them to take part in the discussion of, and vote on, matters relating to Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services, providing that legal opinion considered the participation to be appropriate.

On this occasion, items 5 and 8 on the agenda fell within the dispensation, as they were the minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, which were merely to be noted. It was, therefore, deemed appropriate for Councillors Carter, Hartin, Kiernan and Mellings to remain in the meeting for these items.

Committee Clerk's note

In relation to item 12 Revenue Budget: 2016/17 Precept and item 16 The Scheme for Payment of Member Allowances 2016/17 on the agenda, the Clerk, in accordance with the authority delegated to him by the Fire Authority at its meeting on 18 July 2012, had granted dispensations to all Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Members to take part in the discussion of, and voting on, the setting of the Fire Authority budget and/or precept and the Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances. The dispensation was valid from 12 December 2012 to 11 December 2016.

3 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 16 December 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Turley, and

Resolved that the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 16 December 2015, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Public Questions

No questions, statements or petitions had been received from members of the public.

5 Audit and Performance Management Committee Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 10 December 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Mellings, seconded by Councillor Dr Jones, and

Resolved that the minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 10 December 2015, be noted.

6 Strategy and Resources Committee Non-Exempt Minutes

Members received the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 4 February 2016, and considered the recommendations at items 5, 7 and 8.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hartin, and

Resolved that the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 4 February 2016, be noted.

Item 5 - Financial Performance to December 2015

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hartin, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority:

- a) Note the position of the revenue budget;
- b) Approve movements and virements to the revenue budget, where requested;
- c) Approve the increase to capital schemes where detailed; and
- d) Note performance against prudential indicators to date in 2015/16.

Item 7 - Capital Programmes 2016/17 to 2019/20 and Prudential Guidelines

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hartin, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority:

- a) Approve the Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Strategy for 2016/17;
- b) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision 2016/17; and
- c) Note the review of the Treasury Management Practices and Main Principles for 2016/17.

Item 8 - Adequacy of Provisions and Reserves and Robustness of Budget

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hartin, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree:

- i) The reserves, as set out in the appendix to the report; and
- ii) The Treasurer's assurances covering the robustness of the 2016/17 budget and adequacy of its reserves.

7 Local Government Act 1972

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Hurst-Knight, and

Resolved that, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting room for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined by the provisions of Part I of Schedule 12(A) to the Act, by virtue of Paragraph 3.

8 Audit and Performance Management Committee Exempt Minutes (Paragraph 3)

Members received the exempt minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 10 December 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Mellings, seconded by Councillor Dr Jones, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the exempt minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 10 December 2015.

9 Strategy and Resources Committee Exempt Minutes (Paragraph 3)

Members received the exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 4 February 2016.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Carter, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 4 February 2016.

10 Capital Programmes from 2016/17 (Paragraph 3)

Members received the paper on Capital Programmes from 2016/17 (the appendix to paper 6b).

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Minnery, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree the recommendation of its Strategy and Resources Committee to:

- a) Confirm the 2016/17 onward programmes, set out in exempt paper 10, as part of its final precept deliberations.

The meeting reverted to open session at this point (2.20 pm).

11 Revenue Budget 2016/17

This report incorporated the recommendations, made by the Fire Authority's Strategic Planning (StraP) Working Group on 19 January and its Strategy and Resources Committee on 4 February, in relation to the revenue budget for 2016/17. The report also confirmed the use of assumptions for medium-term financial planning.

The Head of Finance (HoF) advised that the report should be considered and agreed together with agenda item 12 Revenue Budget: 2016/17 Precept.

Councillor Hartin referred to the Unearmarked Capital Reserve and asked for confirmation of the total amount that was in this reserve. The HoF was unable to provide a definitive answer at the meeting but undertook to confirm the amount with Members following the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr Jones, seconded by Councillor Roberts, and

Resolved unanimously that the Fire Authority approve a revenue budget for 2016/17 and a forward financial projection to 2019/20, as set out in section 6 of the report.

12 Revenue Budget: 2016/17 Precept

This report sought Fire Authority approval to a budget for 2016/17; Council Tax levels for 2016/17; and precepts on billing authorities and related matters. It was proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor Wynn, and

Resolved unanimously that the Fire Authority approve:

- a) That a net budget requirement be set at £21,669, 704 (calculated in accordance with the provisions of Section 43(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992);
- b) A total precept of £14,285,986 to be levied on the billing authorities;
- c) A Council Tax resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D calculated in accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Act (Section 44) of £94.05;
- d) Under Section 40(2) of the 1992 Act:
 - i) The amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in each billing authority's area, as follows:

Band	2016/17 Council Tax £ p
A	62.70
B	73.15
C	83.60
D	94.05
E	114.95
F	135.85
G	156.75
H	188.10

- ii) The amount calculated (in accordance with Section 48 of the 1992 Act) as payable by billing authorities for 2016/17, as follows:

Council	Precept £
Shropshire Council	9,867,019
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	4,418,967
	<hr/>
	14,285,986

- e) That the Treasurer:
 - i) Issue the necessary precepts and information to the billing authorities in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of Part 1 of the 1992 Act and be authorised to make any amendment to the above to reflect the final approved budget, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority; and

- ii) Is authorised to make payments required from, and to, reserves and provisions within the approved budget strategy and within the Authority's Financial Rules, in conjunction with the Chair and the Vice-Chair;
- f) Approve the revenue budget and pensions account, illustrated in Appendix A, for budgetary control in accordance with approved standing orders;
- g) Approve the Service Reporting Code of Practice Provisional Revenue Account at Appendix B; and
- h) Approve the schedule of reserves and provisions at Appendix C.

13 Annual Service Plan 2014/15

This report set out proposals for the Service's Annual Plan 2016/17.

It was proposed by Councillor Wynn, seconded by Councillor Roberts, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority:

- a) Agree the proposed format of the Annual Plan 2016/17;
- b) Delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Fire Authority, to agree the final wording and layout of the Plan; and
- c) Delegate the setting of the Service Targets to its Strategy and Resources Committee in March.

14 Annual Review of Charges for Special Services

This report presented proposed increases in charges made for special services.

The HoF highlighted the new charge for the provision of fire investigation information by the Fire Investigation Officer.

It was proposed by Councillor Hurst-Knight, seconded by Councillor Price, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree the proposed charges for special services to be applied from 1 April 2016.

15 Proposed Amendments to the Pay Policy Statement

This report set out proposed amendments to the Pay Policy Statement for consideration by the full Authority, as required under the Localism Act 2011 and in accordance with the process agreed by the Fire Authority in February 2012.

An amended version of the appendix to the report was tabled. A copy will be placed on the signed minute file for the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Dr Jones, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree the proposed amendments to the Pay Policy Statement.

16 The Scheme for Payment of Members' Allowances 2016/17

This report asked the Fire Authority to consider and agree its 2016/17 Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances and also whether a full review of allowances should be carried out during the 2016/17 municipal year.

Councillor Hartin referred to page 1 of Schedule 2 to the Scheme and asked if the statement that 'The above allowances are linked to the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments' applied only to motorcycle and bicycle allowances. The Corporate Support Manager confirmed that that this applied to car, motorcycle and bicycle allowance payments.

It was proposed by Councillor Wynn, seconded by Councillor Roberts, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree:

- a) Its Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances 2016/17 to take effect from 1 April 2016 (a draft of which was set out at the appendix to the report); and
- b) To engage at least three members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which carries out reviews of members allowances for Shropshire Council, to undertake a full review of the Fire Authority Allowances Scheme with a view to providing a report back to the Fire Authority during the 2016/17 municipal year.

17 Details of Lives Saved and those Protected from Harm

This paper highlighted the number of people, who had been protected from harm, or rescued by operational crews during the year 2014/15 and from April 2015 to February 2016. It also attempted to provide an economic value for the rescue work carried out by the Fire Service.

Councillor Adams asked if more budgetary information, such as total amounts spent, could be included in the report. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer undertook to ensure that this information was provided in future.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that work is ongoing with regard to the production of posters displaying this information.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Hartin, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the paper.

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

Signed by the Chair of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority as a correct record of the meeting of the Fire Authority, held on 24 February 2016.

Chair.....

Date.....