

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
held on Wednesday, 16 December 2015, at 3.00 pm
at Service Headquarters, Shrewsbury**

Present

Members

Councillors Mrs Barrow, Carter (Vice-Chair), Fletcher, Hartin, Kiernan, Mason, Mellings, Price, Roberts, Turley and West (Chair)

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 Adams, Hurst-Knight, Dr Jones, Minnery and Reynolds. Councillor Wynn had advised that he might arrive late for the meeting but subsequently did not attend.

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 that they should leave the room prior to commencement of the debate.

Councillors Carter, Hartin, Kiernan and Mellings each declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to item 11 on the agenda, as Directors of Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services Ltd.

The Members concerned had been granted a dispensation by the Fire Authority, which allowed them to take part in the discussion of, and voting on, certain matters relating to Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services Ltd., providing that legal opinion considered the participation to be appropriate. On this occasion, the item concerned the agreement of the exempt minutes of the October Fire Authority meeting. This item fell within the dispensation and participation of the Members concerned was, therefore, deemed to be appropriate.

3 Non-Exempt Minutes

Members received the non-exempt minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 7 October 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow, and

Resolved that the non-exempt minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 7 October 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 Standards and Human Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Standards and Human Resources Committee meeting, held on 20 October 2015, and considered the recommendations as set out below.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Kiernan, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the minutes of the Standards and Human Resources Committee meeting, held on 20 October 2015

5a Ethical Framework Matters

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Kiernan, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree:

- The revised Members' Code of Conduct; and
- To extend the term of office of the Independent Person for a further 4 years

5b Implementation of the Living Wage

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer clarified that the implementation of the Living Wage was applicable only to those people employed directly by Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and that the Service was not responsible for its implementation with any contractors that it employed.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Kiernan, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree the implementation of the Living Wage with effect from 1 October 2015

6 Strategy and Resources Committee

Members received the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 12 November 2015, and considered the recommendations at item 5 relating to financial performance to September 2015.

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

Resolved that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 12 November 2015, be noted and the recommendations at item 5, as detailed below, be agreed

Item 5 – Financial Performance to September 2015, including the Annual Treasury Review 2014/15 and Mid-Year Treasury Review 2015/16

Resolved that the Fire Authority:

- a) Note the position of the revenue budget;
- b) Approve virements to the revenue budget, where requested;
- c) Approve the rescheduling of capital schemes;
- d) Note the annual review of treasury activities for 2014/15;
- e) Note performance against prudential indicators to date in 2015/16; and
- f) Note the mid-year review of treasury activities for 2015/16.

7 2015/16 and Later Years Budget Summary

This report summarised the budgets that were proposed by the Strategy and Resources Committee. The results were put forward to the Fire Authority for approval as the basis for consultation, leading to a final decision at the Fire Authority meeting in February 2016.

The Head of Finance (HoF) presented the report and explained that officers were unable to add anything further to the information contained in the report, as the grant settlement had not yet been announced. It was anticipated that the settlement would be announced on either 17 or 18 December or after Christmas.

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

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree:

- a) To base its revenue budget planning and consultation on the totals set out in section 4 of the report;
- b) The recommendations on Reserves and Provisions, set out in report 6 of the Appendix, and confirm the general reserve; and
- c) Request the Strategy and Resources Committee to prepare a final budget package in February 2016, for final decision by the Fire Authority later in February 2016

8 Wide Area Network

This report provided an update on the position regarding utilising the Service's new Wide Area Network for broader public benefit.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented this report and explained that a further update would be brought to Members in six months' time. If, however, there were any urgent developments before the next report was due, officers would update Members as necessary.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow, and

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the report

9 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 April to November 2015. It also attempted to provide an economic value for the rescue work carried out by the Fire Service.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) presented this report and acknowledged that the calculation used was unique and open to challenge. He asked that Members contact him, if they required any further explanation with regard to this paper.

The DCFO referred to the poster that the Service was in the process of producing. Officers were confident that they now had the correct information but recognised that the poster itself needed to be more visually attractive and were currently working on this. The Chair asked that Members pass any comments / suggestions relating to the poster to the DCFO.

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

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the paper

10 Local Government Act 1972

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

Resolved that, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting room for the following item on the grounds that it 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

11 Exempt Minutes (Paragraph 3)

Members received the exempt minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 7 October 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow, and, with Councillor Mellings abstaining as he had not been present at the exempt part of the meeting, it was

Resolved that the exempt minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 7 October 2015, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record

Before closing the meeting, the Chair asked Members to ensure that they had the Fire Authority and Committee meeting dates for 2016 in their diaries and he reminded Members that Fire Authority meetings would commence at the earlier time of 2.00 pm in 2016.

The Chair then wished all Members and officers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked them for their support during 2015.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....