

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
Extraordinary Meeting  
held at Headquarters, Shrewsbury  
at 2.00 pm on Friday, 22 May 2009**

## **Present**

### **Members**

Councillors Box, Dr Drummond, Mrs Greenaway, Hartin, Hurst-Knight, Dr Jones, Kiernan, Mason, Mellings, Minnery, Picken, West (Chair) and Williams

### **Officers**

Chief Fire Officer Mr Taylor, Clerk Jonathan Eatough, Corporate Services Manager Mrs Lloyd and Human Resources Manager Mrs Vickers

### **Consultants**

Mr Bell, MPCG Business Solutions

## **1 Appointment of Interim Vice-Chair**

Members noted that the current Vice-Chair, Councillor Mrs Holyoak, would retire from the Fire Authority with effect from 4 June 2009. From that date until its Annual Meeting on 3 July the Fire Authority would not, therefore, have a Vice-Chair. Furthermore, the position of the Chair was uncertain, because of the forthcoming elections to Shropshire Council. In order to ensure that there was Member support for some of the Fire Authority's delegated powers it was recommended that an interim Vice-Chair be appointed from Telford & Wrekin Council to hold office from 4 June until immediately after the appointment of Vice-Chair at the Annual Meeting on 3 July 2009.

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

**Resolved unanimously** that Councillor Greenaway be appointed interim Vice-Chair to hold office from 4 June until immediately after the appointment of Vice-Chair at the Annual Meeting on 3 July 2009

There being no other nominations, Councillor Greenaway was duly appointed Vice-Chair to hold office from 4 June until immediately after the appointment of Vice-Chair at the Annual Meeting on 3 July 2009.

## **1a Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Major Coles, Gibbon, Kelly and Mrs Holyoak.

Members noted that, at the Annual Meeting of Telford & Wrekin Council the previous evening, Councillor Eade had stepped down from the Fire Authority and Councillor Kelly had been appointed as his replacement.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members that they should declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests at this point and that they should leave the meeting room before any item, in which they have a prejudicial interest, was discussed.

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 Appointment of Chief Fire Officer**

Members received a report of the Human Resources Manager, advising the Fire Authority of the current position on the appointment of a new Chief Fire Officer.

The Human Resources Manager introduced Mr Bell from MPCG Business Solutions, who would be presenting a verbal report in private session and advising of the recommendation made by the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel.

**Resolved** that the report be noted

## **4 Local Government Act 1972**

Councillor Minnery questioned why item 5 should be held in private session. The Clerk responded that the item related to an individual personnel matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Hurst-Knight, seconded by Councillor Hartin and, on a vote, with 11 Members for and 2 against,

**Resolved** that, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting 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 12A to the Act, by virtue of the paragraphs specified against it.

The Chief Fire Officer, Human Resources Manager and members of the public left the meeting at this point.

## **5 Appointment of Chief Fire Officer (Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3)**

Members received a verbal report from MPCG, the Consultants managing the recruitment process, on the recommendation of the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel regarding appointment to the post of Chief Fire Officer.

It was noted that the Panel recommended that Paul Raymond be appointed to the post of Chief Fire Officer.

The Chair asked whether any Members had any questions they wished to ask. There were none.

It was proposed by Councillor Minnery, seconded by Councillor Hurst-Knight and, on a vote,

**Resolved unanimously** that the recommendation of the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel that Paul Raymond be appointed to the post of Chief Fire Officer be agreed, the appointment to take effect from 1 July 2009

The Chair thanked the Panel, namely Councillors Box, Hartin, Mrs Holyoak and Williams, and also the consultant, Mr Bell, as there had been a considerable amount of work involved in the recruitment process. He also thanked the Fire Authority for agreeing the Panel's recommendation.

Mr Bell commented that as part of the process he had interviewed three groups of staff from Headquarters, Wholetime and Retained. He had been very impressed with their positive attitude and level of engagement. Having worked with other services, he felt that the Authority should be proud of their staff and officers.

The Chair then invited Mr Raymond into the meeting, advised him of the Fire Authority's decision and congratulated him. Mr Raymond thanked Members and also Chief Fire Officer Alan Taylor for the support and development he had given him.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm

**Chair**.....

**Date**.....