

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 JUNE 2011 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

13. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	Authority
A M Ernest (Chairman)		Vale of Glamorgan
K Hyde (Vice-Chairman)		Cardiff
D Bolter		Caerphilly
S Bradwick		Rhondda Cynon Taff
J Daniel		Rhondda Cynon Taff
D T Davies		Caerphilly
R J W Greenland		Monmouthshire
C James		Bridgend
R Jones		Torfaen
S J Jones		Rhondda Cynon Taff
L W Kelloway		Cardiff
C Mann		Caerphilly
R McKerlich		Cardiff
G Price		Merthyr Tydfil
W J Routley		Newport
D Sage		Bridgend
J Singh		Cardiff
V E Smith		Monmouthshire
G Stacey		Rhondda Cynon Taff
B Thomas		Blaenau Gwent
W Tomlinson		Torfaen
E T Williams		Vale of Glamorgan

APOLOGIES:

D Hando	Newport
R Patel	Cardiff

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO A Marles, DCFO H Jakeway, ACO S Chapman – Director of Corporate Services, ACFO R Hammerton – Director of Technical Services, Mr S Greenslade – Treasurer, ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, Mr C Griffiths – FBU Representative

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Each Member declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in each agenda item which affected their Authority.

In addition the following Members specifically drew attention to the following interests as it affected their home authority:-

Councillor Ernest	Item 8
Councillor Williams	Item 8
Councillor Mann	Item 8
Councillor Davies	item 8
Councillor Kelloway	Item 8
Councillor Hyde	Item 8
Councillor Singh	Item 8
Councillor Bolter	Item 8
Councillor Smith	Item 8
Councillor Greenland	Item 8
Councillor S Jones	Item 19
Councillor Stacey	Item 19
Councillor Bradwick	Item 19

Councillor Hyde declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 15, and left the meeting during the consideration of the item.

Councillor Daniels declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 19, and left the meeting during the consideration of the item.

15. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to new Members Councillor Singh of Cardiff, and Councillor Tomlinson of Torfaen, to their first meeting with the Authority.

NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Mr Rod Hammerton, and congratulated him on his recent promotion.

ST. JOHN SERVICE

On 14 May 2011 the Chief Fire Officer, Chairman, and Vice-Chairman, attended the Annual Service of Commemoration Rededication and Investiture of the Priory for Wales of the most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. The Service received a special vote of thanks for the valuable assistance tendered in furtherance of the work of the Order in connection with the Priory of Wales. The framed certificate is to be displayed in the main reception area.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE AWARD

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Service has been awarded the Investors in People Award.

CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Chairman was also pleased to announce that the Service has again been re-accredited the Customer Excellence Award.

ATLANTIC DASH

The Chairman informed Members that the specialist boat placed at the entrance to Headquarters is the boat which is to be used by John Haskell (Ely Station), and Jamie Windsor (Whitchurch Station) as they make their 3000 mile 'Atlantic Dash' between Tenerife and Barbados on 4 December 2011. A short presentation about the expedition is to be delivered following the conclusion of the meeting, and would include the publicity which they hope to generate in each Authority's area.

MEETING PLANNER AND MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

Each Member was provided with an updated meeting planner and a list of contact details of each of the Fire Authority Members for the municipal year. The only changes to the meeting planner were

the change of the February 2012 meeting which is now to take place on 6 February, and the deletion of the April 2012 meeting due to the proximity of the Elections.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The following minutes were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings:-

- Finance, Audit & Performance Management held on 21 March 2011
- Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting held on 9 May 2011
- Annual General Meeting held on 6 June 2011

Councillor D T Davies confirmed that Councillor R Jones of Torfaen, would remain a Member of the Finance Audit and Performance Management Committee, and Councillor W Tomlinson would replace Councillor P Seabourne on the H R & Equalities Committee. Members agreed the revised committee membership following appointment of the new Torfaen Member.

17. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

The ACO Corporate Services informed Members of actions undertaken since the last meeting, and provided updates on minute numbers 08/09-137; 09/10-151; 10/11-118; 10/11-119.

18. NATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN WALES

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer informed Members of the launch of the National Principles of public engagement which has been launched by Wales Council for Voluntary Action and endorsed by the Welsh Government. The 10 Principles background paper was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED THAT

18.1 Members agreed to support the National Principles of Public Engagement.

18.2 Members agreed that the Declaration of Endorsement attached to the report (Appendix 2) is to be signed by the Chairman of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

19. ANNUAL REPORT TO WELSH LANGUAGE BOARD

The Chief Fire Officer presented to Members the Annual Report to the Welsh Language Board, a statutory requirement which provides details of progress against the targets set out in the Authority's Welsh Language Scheme.

RESOLVED THAT

Members unanimously agreed to approve submission of the Annual Report to the Welsh Language Board.

20. STRATEGIC PROPERTY UPDATE

The ACO Corporate Services updated Members upon various issues arising from the Strategic Property Update at the Fire & Rescue Authority meeting held 7 February 2011.

Councillor D T Davies gave thanks to Officers for the excellent work carried out on the Britannia Site Project, especially to the Officers of Monmouthshire County Council.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the work being undertaken by Officers in relation to the sites detailed in the report.

21. UPDATE ON LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RELATION TO ANTHONY SMITH

The ACO Corporate Services advised Members of the outcome of legal proceedings for contempt of court.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the very successful outcome of the legal proceedings for the Authority and the positive public message this sends against fraudulent compensation claims.

22. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2011 REFRESH

The Treasurer updated Members on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) adopted by the Fire & Rescue Authority (FRA) in May 2010, in order that it might be used as a strategic financial planning tool for construction of the 2012/13 (and beyond) revenue and capital budgets.

RESOLVED THAT

- 22.1 Members approved the MTFP revisions included in the report as a strategic planning framework for construction of the 2012/13 revenue and capital budgets.
- 22.2 Members agreed that the indices used within the report be kept under review and updated as further and improved information becomes available.

23. USE BY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF EMERGENCY RELATED POWERS

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised Members of the use of Emergency Powers by the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Fire & Rescue Authority, to approve attendance at events overseas.

RESOLVED THAT

- 23.1 Members agreed to note the use by the Chief Fire Officer of his Emergency Powers to authorise:-
- 23.2 The attendance of a member of the UK-ISAR Team on a European Civil Defence Command Training Course in Germany on 25 June-1 July 2011
- 23.3 An Officer's attendance at a meeting in Holland on 10 June 2011 in his newly appointed role as Lead Officer on the International Development Project – Ukraine.
- 23.4 That Officers present an annual report on overseas travel to prevent numerous future reports to Members.

24. AUTHORITY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL – WORLD FIREFIGHTER GAMES 2012

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reminded Members that Standing Orders require that Officers invited to travel abroad for business purposes require Fire and Rescue Authority approval.

RESOLVED THAT

24.1 Members agreed to authorise the attendance of Service personnel who wish to participate in the World Firefighter Games 2012 in Sydney, Australia.

24.2 Given the current financial climate, Members agreed not to provide financial support for participants.

24.3 Members agreed that time off for participants would be treated in line with current Service policy.

25. AUTHORITY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer informed Members that South Wales Fire and Rescue Service provides a team of firefighters to the UK Fire & Rescue Service International Rescue Team (UK-ISAR). The UK-ISAR Team is a member of the United Nations International Search & Rescue Advisory Group.

A member of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Team has received a request from UK-ISAR to take part in assessing Turkey's response to an International disaster during 11-15 July 2011.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to authorise the participation of one member of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service UK-ISAR Team to take part in the assessment of Turkey's International Search and Rescue response arrangements and competence levels of their teams.

26. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 4 - APRIL 2010 TO MARCH 2011

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer updated Members on the Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 4 – April 2010 to March 2011.

RESOLVED THAT

26.1 Members noted the performance details and statistical data contained within the report.

26.2 Members approved its publication onto the SWFRS internet site.

27. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM FIREBRAKE

The Vice-Chairman left the meeting during the consideration of this item.

The ACO Corporate Services advised Members of a supplementary funding request received by the Service from Firebrake to cover their accommodation costs for the next three years from April 2011 in addition to the funding already provided to the charity.

A motion (original motion) to defer consideration of the item until the Chief Executive of Firebrake could attend the next Fire Authority meeting to justify and substantiate the business case was moved and seconded.

The original recommendation (amendment to the motion) contained within the report before Members was moved as an amendment and seconded together with an additional recommendation that the Chief Executive of Firebrake attend the next meeting of the Fire Authority to answer Member questions on the charity's value for money to the organisation.

The original motion was put to the meeting by the Chairman which was lost.

The amendment to the motion was put to the meeting by the Chairman and it was

RESOLVED THAT

27.1 The additional funding request from Firebrake is refused.

27.2 The Chief Executive of Firebrake is requested to attend before the next Fire Authority to answer questions on the business case and the charity's value for money to the organisation.

The Vice Chairman returned to the meeting.

28. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The ACO Corporate Services presented the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for the Fire and Rescue Authority 2011/12.

29. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 1)

There was one item of urgent business.

30. AUTHORITY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Due to the late formal request by the Police for overseas travel, the Chairman agreed to accept consideration of the report by Members.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer Technical Services informed Members the 2011 World Police and Firefighter Games (WPFG) is to take place in New York and would coincide with the 10 year commemoration of the attacks on the World Trade Centre. South Wales Police Rugby Section has invited South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to join them to create a joint team to enter into the Veteran Rugby 7s Competition. 5 members of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Rugby Section have requested permission to

form part of the team on the basis that they would cover the financial cost themselves. They are not expecting any additional leave to cover their absence.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to authorise the participation of 5 members of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Rugby Section as members of a joint Police and Fire Service Veterans Team at the 2011 WPFV in New York, on the basis that the trip is self-funded and the individuals would not require any additional leave to cover their absence.

31. RESOLUTIONS TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 100A AND PARAGRAPH 14 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)

A resolution to exclude the press and public by virtue of Section 100A and paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) was passed.

32. DISPOSAL OF LANELAY HALL

Councillor Daniel left the meeting during the consideration of this item.

The ACO Corporate Services updated Members on progress made towards marketing the Lanelay Hall site, and made appropriate recommendations thereon.

RESOLVED THAT

31.1 Members agreed that the current planning application for the whole site be varied such that it encompasses only the northern part of the site as identified as area 1 on the appended plan to the report.

31.2 Members agreed that subject to receipt of a valid residential planning consent, Officers be authorised to market area 1 on the attached plan to the report, with an option for developers to tender for the entire site.

31.3 Members agreed that upon the receipt of tenders a further report is presented to Members to determine the way forward.

31.4 Members unanimously agreed to give the ACO Corporate Services delegated powers to proceed appropriately following her meeting with the land owners of the adjoining site and the relevant Local Authority.

33. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 2)

There were no items of urgent business.