

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023 AT 1030 HRS IN MEETING ROOMS 8 OR REMOTELY VIA TEAMS

1. PRESENT:

Councillor	Authority
D Ali	Cardiff
A Best	Torfaen
S Bradwick	Rhondda Cynon Taff
I Buckley	Vale of Glamorgan
K Carr	Cardiff
P Drake	Vale of Glamorgan
C Elsbury	Caerphilly
S Evans	Torfaen
P Ford	Bridgend
G Holmes	Rhondda Cynon Taff
M Hughes	Bridgend
A Hussey	Caerphilly
D Isaac	Merthyr Tydfil
S-E Melbourne	Cardiff
J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
D Naughton	Cardiff
B Proctor	Cardiff
A Roberts	Rhondda Cynon Taff
T Watkins	Newport
G Williams	Rhondda Cynon Taff
C Wright	Caerphilly
L Wright	Monmouthshire

APOLOGIES:

M Al-Nuaimi	Newport
M Powell	Monmouthshire
ACFO R Prendergast	Director of Technical Services

OFFICERS PRESENT: CFO H Jakeway, Temp DCFO D Rose - Director of Service Delivery, Temp ACFO G Davies – Director of Technical Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, ACO G Thomas – Director of Corporate Services & Monitoring Officer, Mrs S Watkins – Head of Corporate Support & Deputy Monitoring Officer, GM G Evans – Group Manager, Business Fire Safety (Observer), Cllr D T Davies – Retired Fire Authority Chair (Observer).

Following a request by the Monitoring Officer, each Officer in attendance provided a formal introduction.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Monitoring Officer requested nominations for Chairperson of the Fire & Rescue Authority. Councillor Bradwick was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Bradwick was duly elected Chair of the Fire & Rescue Authority for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

The newly appointed Chair responded by thanking Members for their unanimous vote of confidence and stated he was looking forward to the year ahead. He extended a warm welcome to new Members and took the opportunity to thank outgoing Members for all their hard work and commitment on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

The Chair also extended a warm welcome to retired Chairman Councillor D T Davies, who was in attendance as an observer.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The newly appointed Chair called for nominations for the Deputy Chairperson. Councillor Drake was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Drake was duly elected Deputy Chair of the Fire & Rescue Authority for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

The newly appointed Deputy Chair thanked Members for their unanimous support.

5. TO AGREE THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Monitoring Officer provided Members with details of the number of Members required for each Fire & Rescue Authority Committee. He also reminded Members that following amendments to the Constitution there was no longer a requirement for the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee to be politically balanced.

RESOLVED THAT

The Chair called for nominations for the following membership of Committees for 2023/2024:-

Finance Audit & Performance Management Committee

Cllr J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
Cllr I Buckley	Vale of Glamorgan
Cllrs D Isaac	Merthyr Tydfil
Cllr C Wright	Caerphilly
Cllr M Al-Nuaimi	Newport
Cllr M Powell	Monmouthshire
Cllr B Proctor	Cardiff
Cllr S Evans	Torfaen
Cllr G Williams	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cllr P Ford	Bridgend

Local Pension Board

Cllr J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
Cllr P Drake	Vale of Glamorgan
Cllr C Elsbury	Caerphilly
Cllr D Naughton	Cardiff

HR & Equalities

Cllr A Roberts	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cllr D Ali	Cardiff
Cllr G Holmes	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cllr L Wright	Monmouthshire
Cllr K Carr	Cardiff
Cllrs A Hussey	Caerphilly
Cllr S-E Melbourne	Cardiff
Cllr T Watkins	Newport
Cllr C Elsbury	Caerphilly
Cllr A Best	Torfaen
Cllr D Naughton	Cardiff
Cllr M Hughes	Bridgend

Standards Committee

Cllr G Holmes	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cllr A Roberts	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cllr C Elsbury	Caerphilly

Ms K Thorogood	Remain as non-elected Independent Member
Dr M Kerbey	Remain as non-elected Independent Member
Mr R Alexander	Remain as non-elected Independent Member
Mr S Barnes	Remain as non-elected Independent Member
Mr D Fussell	Remain as non-elected Independent Member

Scrutiny Committee

Cllr A Best	Torfaen
Cllr C Wright	Caerphilly
Cllr M Hughes	Bridgend
Cllr A Hussey	Caerphilly
Cllr C Elsbury	Caerphilly
Cllr K Carr	Cardiff
Cllr T Watkins	Newport

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FROM ITS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Chair called for nominations for Chairperson of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee from among its Members. Councillor S Evans was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor S Evans was duly elected as Chair of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee.

7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FROM ITS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee from among its Members. Councillor Morgan was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Morgan was duly elected as Deputy Chair of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee.

8. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE HR & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE FROM ITS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Chair called for nominations for Chairperson of the HR & Equalities Committee from among the Members of that Committee. Councillor Roberts was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Roberts was duly elected as Chair of the HR & Equalities Committee for 2023/2024.

9. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE HR & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE FROM ITS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson of the HR & Equalities Committee from among its Members. Councillor Carr was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Carr was duly elected as Deputy Chair of the HR & Equalities Committee for 2023/2024.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Chair called for nominations for Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee from among the Members of that Committee. Councillor Elsbury was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Elsbury was duly elected as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

11. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM ITS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee from among its Members. Councillor Hughes was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED THAT

Councillor Hughes was duly elected as Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

12. TO AGREE THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Monitoring Officer provided Members with a report detailing the nominations required to represent the Fire & Rescue Authority at Working Groups and outside bodies.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed the following representations to the Working Groups and outside organisations detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report:-

Representative to WLGA

Chairperson – Councillor Steven Bradwick

Representative on LGA Fire Committee

Chairperson – Councillor Steven Bradwick

Community Safety Partnership Representatives

Cllr P Ford	Bridgend
Cllr C Elsbury	Caerphilly
Cllr B Proctor	Cardiff
Cllr I Buckley	Vale of Glamorgan
Cllr L Wright	Monmouthshire
Cllr T Watkins	Newport
Cllr G Holmes	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Cllr S Evans	Torfaen
Cllr D Isaac	Merthyr Tydfil
Cllr J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent

Representatives on Standing Orders Working Group

Cllr C Elsbury	Caerphilly
Cllr A Roberts	Rhondda Cynon-Taff
Cllr M Powell	Monmouthshire

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the representatives of the Standing Orders Working Group for their all hard work on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Representatives on Innovations & Awards Panel

Cllr S Evans	Torfaen
Cllr C Wright	Caerphilly
Cllr D Naughton	Cardiff

Representatives on Pension Scheme Advisory Board for Wales

Cllr A Roberts	Rhondda Cynon Taff
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Member Champions

Cllr G Holmes	Property
Cllr I Buckley	Community Safety
Cllr J Morgan	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Cllr S Evans	Fleet & Engineering
Cllr D Isaac	Service Delivery
Cllr K Carr	Sustainability & Biodiversity

13. TO AGREE THE CYCLE OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Monitoring Officer provided Members with details of the proposed cycle of Training, Committee and Working Group meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

RESOLVED THAT

Members approved the cycle of Training, Committee and Working Group meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/2024 detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

The Chair urged Members to attend the Presentation Evening which was taking place on 21 June, 2023

14. AUDIT WALES ENQUIRIES TO ‘THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE’ – DRAFT RESPONSE

The Treasurer presented a report which provided Members with details of a draft response to the Audit Wales paper on ‘Those Charged with Governance’ when approving financial statements.

RESOLVED THAT

14.1 Members unanimously agreed to approve the response to the Audit Wales questions, as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

14.2 Following discussion, Members agreed to note the timeline of the Audit reports and the possible delay in formally signing off the Accounts at the end of the Financial Year.

15. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022/2023

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members of the annual report on the work of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the contents of the work of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee undertaken during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

The Chair of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee wished to thank Officers and Members for all their hard work throughout 2022/2023.

16. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE HR & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE 2022/2023

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members of the content of the work that the HR & Equalities Committee had undertaken during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the work of the HR & Equalities Committee during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

The Chair of the HR & Equalities Committee wished to thank Officers and Members for all their hard work throughout 2022/2023

17. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD 2022/2023

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members of the contents of the work that the Local Pension Board Committee had undertaken during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the work of the Local Pension Board Committee during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

18. ANNUAL REPORT ON DISCHARGE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SCRUTINY GROUP 2022/2023

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented Members with the draft annual report on the work of the Scrutiny Group for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the work of the Scrutiny Group during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

19. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members that as a matter of good corporate governance, an action was included in the 2022/2023 Annual Governance Statement to introduce an annual report on the work of the Standards Committee to provide the Authority with an update on its activities during each financial year.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the work of the Standards Committee during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

20. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business to discuss.

- **MESSAGE OF THANKS**

Councillor Hussey wished to record his thanks to operational crews for attending a recent local forest fire incident which had occurred within his Authority.

The Chair also took the opportunity to thank operational crews for attending a number of recent fire incidents within the Rhondda Cynon Taff area.

The Chief Fire Officer provided Members with a brief overview of the multiple fire incidents which operational crews had attended, along with other partner agencies. He was pleased to report that there had been no threat to life or property, but it had been a very challenging time for the Service and Fire Control operators. He thanked Members for their messages of thanks and support which he would pass on to operational crews and Fire Control.

- **KEY EVENTS**

The Chair closed the meeting by highlighting the number of key events which were due to take place throughout the new Municipal Year, and urged Members to attend the Members Induction Day, Passing Out Parades, and Emergency Services Carol Service.