

# WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY  
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES  
on THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2014**

**Present :** Cllrs A Bennett (until 1410), E Clark, C Devine, Mrs M Groom, R Jones MBE, J Knight, H Marshall, N Martin, C Newbury, G Payne, G Perkins, J Tray and Mrs B Wayman.

**1 Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting was opened and adjourned until 1245.

**2 Election of Chairman for the Ensuing Year**

The meeting reconvened at 1245 and Cllr Chris Devine was elected Chairman for the ensuing year. Cllr Devine thanked Cllr Payne for his work as Chairman.

**3 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Garry Perkins was elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**4 Membership**

The Clerk reported that the following Councillors had been appointed as members of the Authority from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council:

Swindon: Cllrs Andrew Bennett, Nick Martin, Garry Perkins and Joe Tray

Wiltshire: Cllrs Ernie Clark, Chris Devine, Mollie Groom, Bob Jones MBE, John Knight, Howard Marshall, Christopher Newbury, Graham Payne and Bridget Wayman.

**5 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 13 February 2014 were approved and signed.

**6 Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**7 Members' Interests**

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any interests which the Authority's Code of Conduct required to be disclosed, or dispensations granted by the Clerk to the Authority or by the Ethics Committee. None were received.

**8 Chairman's Announcements**

- a) Rohan McMillan, the Independent Person, had tendered his resignation after more than 5 years working with the Authority. The Authority gave a unanimous vote of thanks for his dedication and hard work. Howard Marshall, who had worked with Mr McMillan on the old Standards Committee, added a personal note of appreciation.
- b) It was announced that Members were to be invited to a graduation ceremony for Retained Firefighters at TDC on Saturday 5 July 2014.
- c) Dorset FRS had extended an invitation to all members of the CFA to visit their Streetwise programme in Dorset on 11 July.

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d) Members were asked to submit dates for visits to their local station to the Clerk.

### **9 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

### **10 Membership of Committees and Representation on Other Bodies.**

The Authority noted that the Liberal Democrat Group on the Authority had notified the Clerk that their Group Leader was Cllr Bob Jones MBE. On considering a paper by the Clerk,

#### Resolved:

*To approve the nomination of members to the positions, and the appointment of members to the committees and other bodies, as set out in the table appended to these minutes, for the ensuing year, i.e. until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2015.*

### **11 Programme & Scrutiny Board.**

The Authority received a report of the meeting of the PSB held on 9 May 2014.

### **12 Corporate Plan.**

The CFO presented a paper on the Corporate Plan and the Authority noted that the Retained Firefighters salary scheme trial had been extended.

### **13 Finance Review & Audit Committee.**

The Minutes of the Finance Review and Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2014 were noted.

### **14 Extension To Existing Contracts**

The Authority considered a paper by the Clerk on the extension to a contract with 3tc

#### Resolved:

*To approve an extension to the existing contract up until 31 March 2015, subject to renegotiation from 1 October 2014 and a report being submitted to the FRAC.*

### **15 Protection, Prevention and Intervention.**

A short visual presentation was made to Members.

### **16 Flooding Costs and Recoveries.**

The Members noted the contents of a paper by the Brigade Manager – Governance & Assurance on the costs incurred during the significant flooding events of winter 2013/14, and their recovery.

### **17 Staffing Committee**

The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 8 May 2014 were received.

### **18 Industrial Action**

The Brigade Manager, People & Development gave a brief report outlining future industrial action planned by the FBU and UNISON.

### **19 Independent Persons**

The Members considered a paper by the Clerk on the Independent Persons,

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Resolved:

- a) *To confirm the term of office for Independent Persons as 4 years from date of appointment.*
- b) *To approve the recruitment of a new Independent Person.*
- c) *To appoint Cllrs Newbury and Jones MBE to the selection panel.*

## 20 Equality & Diversity Steering Group

Cllr Bob Jones MBE reported that the Equality and Diversity Steering Group ran well and that it included a cross-section of staff. The Brigade Manager –People & Development gave an update on the steering group and the benefits of regional working.

## 21 Update on the Business Case for Combination.

The CFO reported that, in accordance with the recommendation at the meeting of the Authority in December 2013, a joint bid had been submitted on 4 June 2014 through the Chairman of the Authority to DCLG's Transformation funding programme. As the main investments would be around the Salisbury area, the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority would be the lead Authority. It was reported that joint bid of £5.6m was predicated on the potential combination and that the success of the bid would be known in late September 2014.

Prior to the CFA meeting, there had been a presentation for Members who had been given the following documents (some of which were protectively marked):

1. Draft vision statement
2. Strategic optional appraisal
3. Statutory and legal compliance register
4. Strategic appraisal
5. Transformation bid to DCLG
6. Functional reviews summary sheets (Protectively marked)

The public consultation process was discussed and the Authority requested further time to review the documents prior to the commencement of the consultation process. Some Members expressed concerns that only detailed work had been done on a potential combination but it was stated that Officers had worked through the Combination Oversight Board to produce the documents in line with the outcome of CFA meeting held on 12 December. Members requested that Officers undertook further work to ensure that any public consultation process proposed a neutral set of options on future changes. It was highlighted that whilst it would be feasible to make a number of key change it would not be possible to develop a detailed options appraisal before the next Authority meeting on the 10 July.

Resolved:

- a) *To postpone the consultation for 4 weeks later to allow Members to review the documentation.*
- b) *To reconvene on 10 July to consider the public consultation documents and proposed process*

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**22 Networked Fire Control Services Partnership and Joint Command & Control Centre.**

A paper on the NFCSP and JCCC projects was received by the Authority.

**23 Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

(Meeting Closed 14:40)

Appendix:

A: Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority Membership of Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies.