

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
held via Microsoft Teams
on Wednesday, 20 May 2020, at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Carter (Chair), Dee, Hartin, Mellings (Vice-Chair), Middleton, Milner, Pardy, Roberts, Sahota, Thompson and Wynn

Officers

Rod Hammerton	Chief Fire Officer	CFO
Dave Myers	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	DCFO
Simon Hardiman	Assistant Chief Fire Officer	ACFO
Anthea Lowe	Deputy Monitoring Officer	DMO
Joanne Coadey	Head of Finance	HoF
Ged Edwards	Planning and Performance Manager	PPM
Andrew Kelcey	Head of Resources	HoR
Germaine Worker	Head of Human Resources and Administration	HHRA
Lynn Ince	Executive Support Officer	ESO

External Bodies

Tracy Onslow	West Mercia Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner	DPCC
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1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Blundell, Minnery and Price. Councillor Adams did not attend the meeting
James Walton, Treasurer

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

3 Public Questions

None

At this point, the Chair informed the Authority that he had attended a virtual meeting of the Fire Commission on 15 May 2020. The meeting included a presentation from Lord Stephen Greenhalgh, the new Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire and Communities. The Chair had written to Lord Greenhalgh this week to introduce himself and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

A copy of the letter had been shared with Authority Members earlier today. Members commented that it was good letter which would hopefully generate a positive response from the Minister. The DPCC requested a copy of the letter. This was agreed.

The CFO reported that the Minister has held a conference call with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). Early indicators bode well as he is a member of the House of Lords which puts him in a different position to previous Ministers and he is keen to look at the future function of the fire service and firefighters.

Members commented that whilst it is encouraging to hear about Lord Greenhalgh's attitude to the fire service, a critical issue will be his approach to Government policy, especially governance issues.

4 The Fire Authority Annual General Meeting

In June each year the Authority holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM). This meeting is part of the Combined Fire Authority Constitution and in accordance with the Constitution, the Authority is required to appoint a Chair, Vice-Chair, Members to sit on its Committees and to allocate seats on the Committees in accordance with the political proportionality rules, and to reflect the overall political composition of the Authority.

This report was presented to promote a debate as to whether the Annual General Meeting should run as per the programmed workplan or should be deferred to a later date.

The Chair presented this report and explained to Members that the Group Leaders had met to consider deferring the AGM to October 2020. Their recommendation was that the AGM should be deferred but this decision must be ratified by the full Fire Authority hence why this meeting has been convened. Legislation was introduced on 7 April 2020 which allows for an Authority to defer its AGM until a date to be determined by that Authority, providing that this does not extend beyond the usual date for an AGM in 2021. Shropshire Council have deferred their AGM to later in the year whilst Telford & Wrekin Council are holding their AGM on 21 May 2020. The meeting will be run remotely and with reduced numbers of Members attending.

Members commented that it was interesting that Telford & Wrekin Council were holding their AGM but felt that there was a sound rationale for postponing the Fire Authority AGM.

It was proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor Dee, and

Resolved unanimously that the Annual General Meeting business for 2020 should be deferred to October 2020.

The meeting closed at 2.25 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....