

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2012**

Present : Cllr Brig. R Hall (Chairman), Cllr P Davis (from min. no. 60), Cllr C Devine, Cllr Mrs M Groom, Cllr H Marshall, Cllr N Martin, Cllr B Mattock, Cllr C Newbury (from min. no. 60), Cllr G Payne, Cllr G Perkins, Cllr R Wright , Cllr Mrs B Wayman.

57 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012 were confirmed and signed.

58 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Osborn.

59 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 the Ethics Committee.

60 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman referred to the death of Mrs Doreen Dart, former Swindon Borough Councillor, and a member and Vice-Chairman of the Fire Authority from 2000 to 2006. With the former Chairman of the Authority, the Clerk and the Chief Fire Officer's PA, he had attended a memorial service on 17 November at Christ Church, Swindon at which tributes had been made by the Leader of the Borough Council and the Chief Executive of Swindon Football Club. The Chairman invited Members to stand for a moment of silence in remembrance.

The Chairman reported on the ill-health of Cllr Osborn and said he would write to send the Authority's best wishes for a swift recovery.

The Chairman referred to a number of meetings he had attended since the last meeting of the Authority, namely:

- Two Fire Commission Meetings
- A meeting of Combined Fire Authorities
- The Fire Service Management Committee

The Chairman reported on preparations for the Fire Peer Challenge in January.

Finally, the Chairman said that he and a number of other members had attended the Service's carol service on 11 December, an enjoyable occasion which had also included the presentation of new Colours.

61 Programme & Scrutiny Board

The report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 19 November 2012 was received. In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Wayman, it was agreed to ask the Board to review the current policy on animal rescue to include the costs/benefits of charging.

62 Revised Capital Programme 2012/13

On considering a paper by the Brigade Manager- Finance & ICT,

Resolved:

To approve the revised Capital Programme for 2012/13 of £3.240m and the revised prudential indicators as set out in Appendices A and B respectively of the paper presented.

63 Finance Review & Audit Committee

The Chairman of the Committee made a verbal report on the main items of business at the meeting of the Committee held on 11 December 2012. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting would be presented to the next meeting of the Authority.

64 Health & Safety Annual Statement

On considering a report by the Asst. Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved:

To note the report and to approve the annual Health & Safety Policy Statement.

67 Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 27 September 2012 were received.

68 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made.

69 Ethics Committee

(1) The minutes of the meeting of the Ethics Committee held on 12 November 2012 were received.

(2) Recommendations of the Committee regarding the Register of Members' Interests and an accompanying paper by the Monitoring Officer and the Clerk to the Authority were considered. A vote was taken on the recommendation to adopt Cllr Newbury's suggested pro forma for use by members when notifying the Monitoring Officer of interests for inclusion in the Authority's Register of Members' Interests with effect from the next annual appointment of members to the Authority in May 2013. The vote by show of hands resulted in a tie, whereupon the Chairman ruled that the Committee's recommendations be referred to a future meeting of the Authority for further consideration.

70 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public from the business specified in minute no. 71 below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act.

71 Future Organisation

The Chief Fire Officer gave a short verbal report on proposed plans for the future organisation of the Service. This included an update on consultations with the representative bodies.

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.)

