



British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on **Saturday 13th April 2019** At Hampshire F&RS HQ, Eastleigh.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.00 hrs.

Present: Frank Turner (FT) Chair; Graham Howgate (GenSec); Vernon Fisher (VF); Peter Mills (PM); Matt Stokes (MS), Seamus Higgins (SH)

Apologies from: Steve Shirley; Dave Lown; Dick Lovelace; John Watson; Paul Basson; Geoff McSweeney; George Halsted.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2018 were agreed and will be published on the website.

Matters Arising:

- Letter of thanks sent by Gen Sec to Mick Lee.
- Matters regarding medals are still ongoing.

It was noted that Paul Basson had been elected by London & South East District and John Watson by South Midlands & Home Counties District to serve on the Governing Council.

Matt Stokes was co-opted to serve on the Governing Council (National Fire Control District)

Seamus Higgins was co-opted to serve on the Governing Council (South of England District)

The Chairman presented his report stating that he had attended the MWF meeting and was working closely with the General Secretary on routine issues. He had some up-coming events with the London & South East District including the Annual Dinner **Gen Sec to send details to GC members**

The General Secretary went through his report that had been previously circulated. This included a review discussion on the capital investment currently with M&G Charibonds. It was agreed that this was the best place for the money to be held.

The General Secretary also asked for approval to develop the Aviation Group, this was enthusiastically Agreed. **Action: Gen. Sec.**

Matt Stokes presented a proposal paper that had previously been circulated regarding a National Fire Control District. Following a discussion this was agreed. The Chairman thanked Matt for his work on this and presented him with the new District Warrant as the lead member.

The Gen Sec raised the use of "Zoom" Video Conferencing outlining the cost and time benefits. There was a Q&A session by those present and it was agreed to use the system for the rest of 2019 with a review at the end of the year. **Action: Gen. Sec.**

The Chairman gave an update on behalf of the MWF, with additional comments by PM. There was further explanation of the MWF for the new GC members.

District Reports:

West Midlands: VF advised that there would be no service at the National Arboretum this year.

South of England: PM welcome SH as a new GC member for the District. He also stated that there has been further work in reclaiming some of the BFSA items that were being held by others. The District was keeping in contact with a number of retired members and was holding regular lunches.

Gen Sec asked for SH to be advised of events.

Action: PM

London & South East; the annual dinner was held on 7th June at the Civil Service Club. The exchange programme with Grunheide continues and District members will be going to German in June.

Emergency Services Show 2019; GenSec reported that the preparatory work is underway. Due to new District and the Aviation Group new posters would be needed. This was agreed. **Action: Gen. Sec.**

AOB:

VF, asked for an update on the Museum of RAF Firefighting. Gen Sec said that the museum had found a new location and work was currently underway to prepare for opening.

Dates of meetings; Gen Sec to set up “Zoom” and arrange a date for the next video conference meeting sometime in June/July (This will be a weekday meeting of no more that 40 mins)

The meeting closed at 12.00 hrs, followed by lunch.

The Chairman thanked Matt Stokes for hosting the meeting.